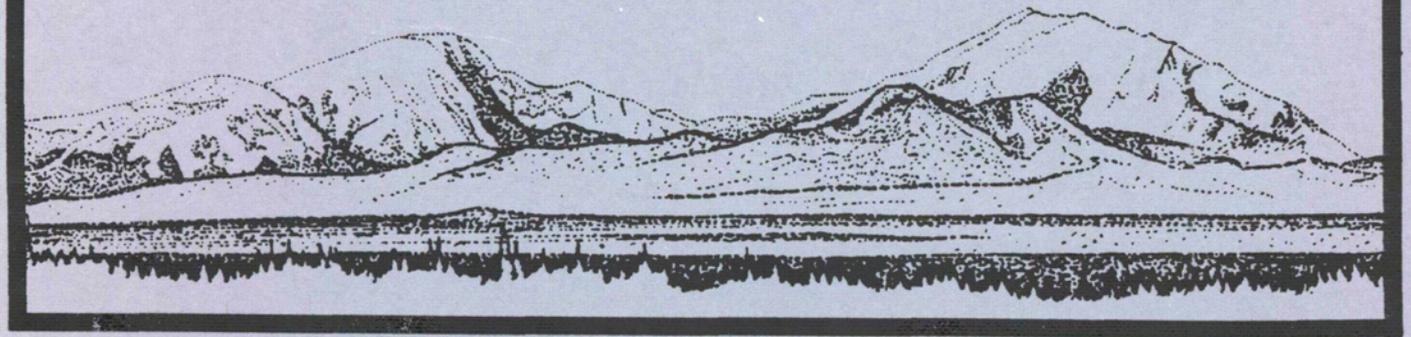


Copper River Basin

Area Plan for State Lands



Alaska Department of
**Natural
Resources**



Alaska Department of
Fish and Game

December 1986

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

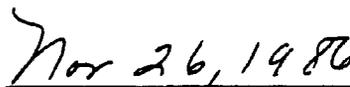
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources finds that the Copper River Basin Area Plan meets the requirements of AS 38.04.065 and 11 AAC 55.010-.030 for Area Land Use Plans and does hereby adopt it as policy of the Department of Natural Resources for state land within the planning area.



Esther C. Wunnicke, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

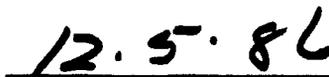


Date

The Department of Fish and Game has assisted the Department of Natural Resources in preparing the Copper River Basin Area Plan. This plan establishes policies that will guide land uses which the Department of Fish and Game must either permit or review. The Department of Fish and Game will use this plan as guidance and be consistent with it when implementing its authorities under title 16 of the Alaska Statutes and when reviewing and commenting on proposed disposal or use of state lands.



Don W. Collinsworth, Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game



Date

Copper River Basin Area Plan

December 1986

Prepared by:

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

ACE 6329347

Planning Team

Plans for state land are prepared by an inter-disciplinary planning team. The planning teams are coordinated by staff of the Resource Allocation Section of the Division of Land and Water Management.

Department of Natural Resources

Esther C. Wunnicke, Commissioner

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Mark Clark, USDA, SCS - Soil survey

Dayl Katz, USDA, SCS - Soil survey

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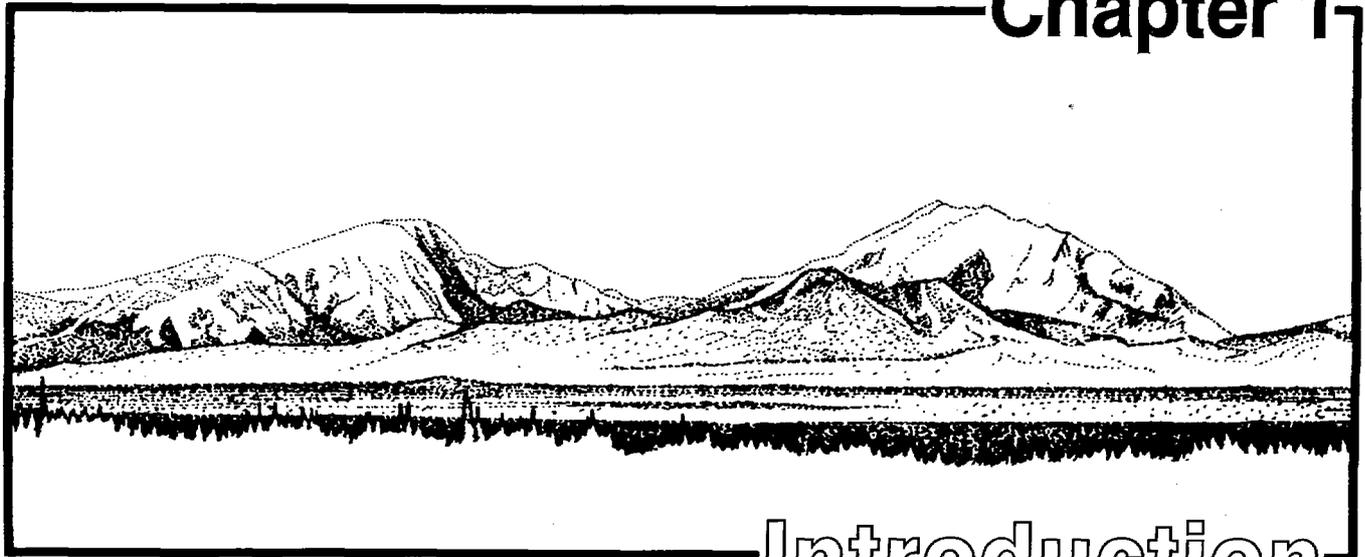
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Chapter 1



Introduction

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Summary of Purpose

This plan describes how the Department of Natural Resources will manage state land in the Copper River Basin. The plan determines land disposal locations, land use classifications, administrative designations, and land selections, relinquishments and exchanges.

A draft of this plan was circulated for public review in September of 1986. Public meetings were held in 14 communities and public comment was received through November 10, 1986. These comments were used as the basis for revisions which resulted in this final plan.

How this Document is Organized

Chapter 1 discusses why the Copper River Basin Area Plan was developed and summarizes the planning process, implementation procedures, and steps for future plan modification.

Chapter 2 presents state policies on land management that guide implementation of the area plan. These policies are generally consistent for all state lands where area plans have been prepared. However, because this region is unique, some policies were modified to reflect particular conditions that occur in the Copper River area.

Chapter 3 contains detailed descriptions of the plan's land use designations. For convenience, the study area is organized into 33 management units. A management unit is an area that is generally homogeneous with respect to its resources, topography, and land ownership. Each unit includes a statement of management intent, a table that indicates major resource values, and a table that lists land use designations.

Chapter 4 discusses specific actions needed to implement the plan: recommended legislative designations; relinquishment of state selected land; selection of additional land by the state; and cooperative agreements. This chapter also discusses procedures for plan modification.

Appendix A briefly explains the rationale for the policies in the final plan. Appendix B is a glossary; and appendix C lists various reports written as background for this plan: the resource elements (one report for each seven resource types) and a 'Summary of public comments on alternatives.' Appendix D contains maps that show important trails in the planning area.

Description of Planning Area

The Copper River Basin planning area, 15.9 million acres of land, is located in the eastern portion of southcentral Alaska. The majority of this land is under federal

ownership and is managed by the National Park Service or Bureau of Land Management. The Copper River Basin Area Plan addresses the management of approximately 3.3 million acres of state lands. Native corporations within the planning area are entitled to approximately 1.8 million acres of land. Numerous small tracts of privately owned land, particularly near Glennallen, Copper Center, and Kenny Lake, exist within the area, and the University of Alaska also manages several small tracts of land near Glennallen and McCarthy.

The Prince William Sound Area Plan (currently underway) and the Susitna Basin Area Plan are guides for management of state lands south and west of the Copper River Basin, respectively. The Tanana Basin Area Plan is a guide for management of state land north of the Copper River Basin.

Why Plan for Public Land?

The Copper River Basin is rich in natural resources, and there are many different ideas as to how these natural resources should be used. Although some uses are in direct conflict with each other, different uses can occur on the same piece of land provided the uses are properly managed.

The planning process provides a means for openly reviewing all resource information and public concerns before long-range decisions are made on state land-use issues. The planning process resolves conflicting ideas on land use and lets the public know what choices were made and why.

Preparation of land use plans for state lands is required under Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes. State agencies that are responsible for implementing the plan use a variety of methods such as permits, leases, land sales, or negotiated agreements with adjacent land owners to manage the land and its resources. Actions of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be based on the approved area plan.

This final plan describes the intended uses of state lands. The plan contains recommendations on which tracts of land should be retained by the state, sold to private citizens, or exchanged for other tracts of land. In addition, the plan includes a process to identify how the plan will be revised and updated. Maps and legal descriptions are used to clarify the plan.

Planning Process and Management Structure

The planning process was designed to ensure full participation by the public and government agencies; to provide opportunities for review and revision of the plan; and to include consideration of a wide variety of ideas. The steps in the planning process have been:

1. Public and agencies identified issues.
2. Resource information was compiled.
3. Plan alternatives were prepared.
4. Alternatives were reviewed with the public.
5. Draft plan was prepared for state lands.
6. Draft plan was reviewed with the public.
7. Final plan was prepared.
8. Plan is adopted and implemented.

The planning team for the Copper River basin is responsible for developing this area plan. The team is composed of representatives from the agencies or groups listed below:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Divisions of Land and Water Management, Agriculture, Forestry, Oil and Gas, Mining and Geological and Geophysical Surveys, and Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Ahtna, Incorporated

In addition, private citizens, citizens' groups, private organizations, and other state, federal, and local agencies participate in the planning process by attending workshops and providing comments. The planning process included three major efforts to involve the public. Fourteen public meetings were held in November 1984 to identify issues. A public-attitude survey of Copper River basin residents and users was conducted during the summer 1985. Twelve public meetings were held to solicit comments on alternatives during the spring 1986, and a summary brochure was distributed through the mail. Fourteen public meetings were held as part of the public review of the draft plan. Summaries of these meetings are available from DNR.

Summary of Plan Implementation

Plan implementation will occur primarily through administrative actions: land designations; land sales, leases, permits; relinquishments of state selected land; additional selections of land; interagency memorandums of agreement; classification orders; and mineral closing orders. In addition, the department makes recommendations to the state legislature on legislative designations.

Land use classifications and mineral closing orders will be signed for state lands in the basin. These classifications and orders are the formal record of primary and secondary uses allowed on state land and are recorded on status plats. (See Chapter 4 for a more detailed discussion of plan implementation.)

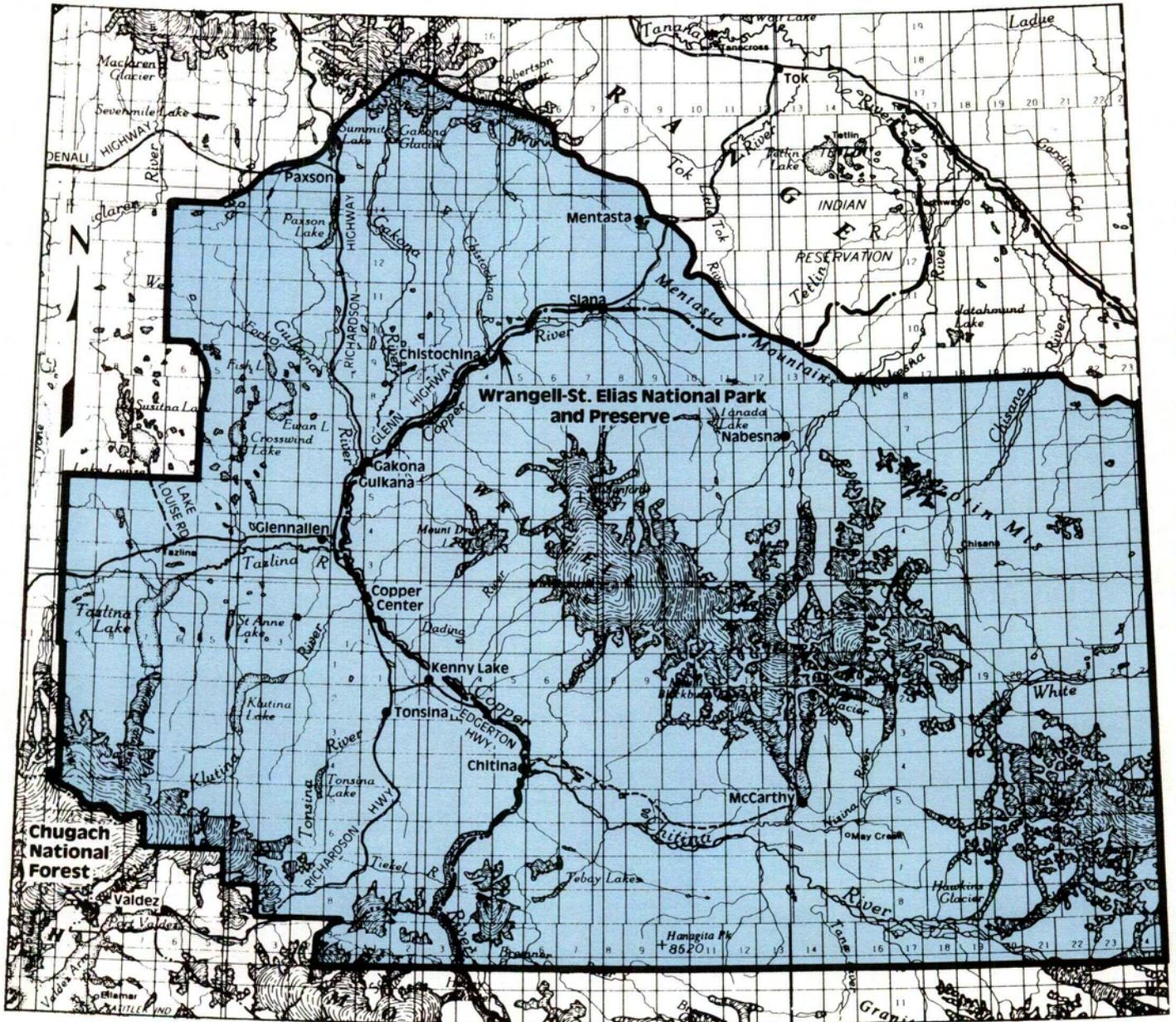
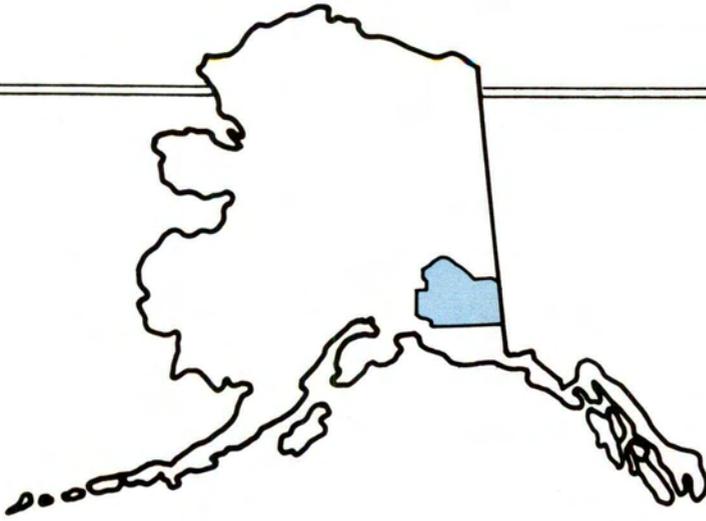
Summary of Process for Modifying the Plan

The Copper River Basin Area Plan must be a flexible tool so that it can change as economic and social conditions change. The plan will be reviewed every 5 years to determine if revisions are required.

The plan may be amended on approval by the Commissioner of DNR followed by public review and consultation with appropriate agencies. A minor change to the plan, such as clarifying intent or correcting an inconsistency, does not require public review. Special exceptions to the plan can occur when compliance with the plan is impossible or impractical. However, a request for a special exception must follow certain procedures. (See Chapter 4.)

PLANNING AREA

Location Map



Chapter 2



Areawide Land Management Policies

CHAPTER 2

Areawide Land Management Policies

Introduction

This chapter presents land management policies for each of the major resource or land use categories affected by the plan: agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, forestry, materials, recreation, settlement, subsurface resources, and transportation. The chapter also presents management policies for several specific land management concerns: lakeshore management, public access, stream corridors, instream flow, trail management, and wetlands management. These policies apply to state land throughout the region, regardless of the land use designation. In addition, this chapter summarizes the land allocations for each resource.

The policies in this chapter consist of goals and management guidelines. Goals are the general condition the department is trying to achieve and the guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occur.

The following definitions apply to terms commonly used in this chapter. Additional definitions are in the Glossary - Appendix B.

Consultation: Under existing statutes, regulations and procedures, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) informs other groups of its intention to take a specific action(s) and seeks their advice or assistance. Consultation is not intended to be binding on a decision; it is a means of informing affected organizations and individuals about forthcoming decisions and getting the benefit of their expertise.

Feasible: Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors.

Feasible and Prudent: Consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the guideline.

Goal: A statement of basic intent or a general condition desired in the long term. Goals are usually not quantifiable and do not have specified dates for achievement.

Guideline: A specific course of action that must be followed when a resource manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes use of state lands. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it. Guidelines also range from giving general guidance for decision-making or identifying factors that need to be considered to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions.

Policy: An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions. In this plan, DNR policies for land and resource management include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, land use designations, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of DNR's intentions.

Shall: Requires a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word 'shall' must be followed by resource managers or users. If such a guideline is not complied with, a written decision justifying the noncompliance is required (see p. 4-15).

Should: States intent for a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word 'should' states the plan's intent and allows a resource manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or whether particular circumstances justify deviation from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified.

Will: Same as 'shall' (above).

AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING

Goals

Economic Development. Diversify and strengthen the state's economy by increasing the availability of competitively priced Alaska food products:

1. Encourage expanded production and availability of competitively priced farm products from existing agricultural lands.
2. Increase the acreage available for agricultural production.
3. Preserve the future option to use potential agricultural lands for agricultural uses.

Agrarian Lifestyle. Provide the opportunity for Alaskans to pursue an agrarian lifestyle.

Conservation of Agricultural Resources and Protection of the Environment. Design all agricultural projects so that the productive capability of the soil and the quality of the natural environment are maintained or enhanced.

Management Guidelines - Agriculture

A. Conveyance of Agricultural Rights. Agricultural rights only will be conveyed to private ownership when the department sells lands that are designated for agricultural purposes.

B. Farm Development Schedules and Conservation Plans. When agricultural rights are conveyed, the terms of conveyance will include the requirement to comply with a farm conservation plan. Conservation plans will be approved by DNR in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) before farm development. The plans will incorporate soil, water, and wildlife conservation practices as developed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and other affected agencies. ADF&G's technical assistance to farmers and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the preparation of farm conservation plans will be the primary means of incorporating fish and wildlife concerns into these plans. A farm development plan may also be required.

C. Agriculture Conveyance Program. In the Copper River Basin, most agricultural lands are small, scattered parcels (less than 2,000 generally contiguous acres). Therefore, these lands should be considered for disposal under the agricultural homestead or small scale agricultural sale programs.

D. Protecting Options for Agricultural Development. Potential agricultural lands classified resource management will be available for uses that do not preclude agricultural development or impact other primary resource values. Such uses include habitat protection and enhancement, recreation, oil and gas, and forestry management.

E. Protection of Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams. A minimum buffer width of 100 feet (publicly owned or reserved as an easement or covenant) shall apply to all agricultural land sales. See Wetlands, Stream Corridor and Lakeshore sections of this chapter.

F. Timber Salvage on Agricultural Lands. See forestry guidelines page 2-13.

G. Depredation. Depredation of crops by wildlife will be minimized by avoiding agricultural disposals in areas where depredation is likely to be a major problem and integrating game movement corridors into the design of agricultural projects. When depredation does occur on agricultural land, nonlethal means of wildlife control are preferred and may be required.

H. Floodplains. DNR generally will avoid agricultural disposals in the 10-year flood plain. Where the 10-year floodplain has not been identified, the best available information will be used to identify areas where flooding is likely to severely limit agriculture. Agricultural disposals in such areas will be avoided.

I. Suitability for Agriculture. Designated agricultural areas can be offered under the settlement programs (such as nonagricultural homesteads or subdivisions) if found unsuitable for agriculture.

Management Guidelines - Grazing

A. Grazing in Remote Areas. In the Copper River Basin, grazing is generally discouraged in roadless areas that have low natural grazing potential and in areas where there are no feasible farm headquarters sites. This policy directs DNR's leasing and permit program and range management plans to areas where grazing is economically feasible and minimizes the impacts of grazing on soil stability, water quality, and habitat.

B. Grazing on Important Habitat Lands. Grazing generally should be prohibited in the following habitat types unless DNR determines, in consultation with ADF&G, that impacts can be mitigated through specific management guidelines:

- Dall sheep range
- Brown bear concentration areas
- Habitats of endangered species and species afforded special protection, if such species would be threatened by grazing
- Moose winter concentration areas
- Caribou calving areas
- Other important habitats identified on a case-by-case basis by DNR in consultation with ADF&G

C. Multiple-use Management of Grazing Lands

1. Grazing lands will be managed as multiple use lands to support a variety of public benefits in addition to livestock production, including:
 - Fish and wildlife maintenance
 - Water quality maintenance
 - Public recreation
 - Timber
 - Soil conservation
 - Oil and gas
2. Grazing lands will be managed to ensure sustainable forage for domestic stock and wildlife.
3. Public access across and public use of grazing lands may not be limited by persons holding grazing leases or permits unless approved as part of a grazing operations plan.

D. Grazing Permits and Leases. A grazing lease or permit issued by DNR is required for any person who releases livestock on state lands. Permits may be granted for 1 to 5 years. Permits may be issued wherever grazing is not prohibited if fish and wildlife and other significant resources or uses are not adversely affected.

1. Permits or short-term leases rather than long-term leases should be issued in areas especially susceptible to soil erosion or water quality degradation, environmentally sensitive areas, areas with potentially conflicting uses, or areas where the level of activity and investment by the lessee does not require a long-term commitment of the land. These areas will be identified through DNR's range management plans or through management plans.
2. Long-term leases (6 to 25 years) may be issued where the level of activity and investment by the lessee is significant enough to require a long-term commitment of the land. Leases will establish reasonable use standards that, if not met, may be cause for cancellation of the lease.

Long-term leases may be issued unless the best interest finding determines that significant impacts to important fish and wildlife or other resources and uses cannot be adequately mitigated in the terms and conditions of the lease.

3. The requirements stated in these guidelines will be implemented through appropriate lease and permit stipulations. In addition, standards in permits or leases will follow the fencing guidelines developed cooperatively by the DNR, SCS and ADF&G to minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and recreation uses.

Provisions of existing grazing leases and permits are not affected by these guidelines. In areas where grazing leases and permits have been issued previously, new permits may be issued, and existing leases may be renewed before range management plans are completed. However, such permits or leases will be subject to these management guidelines.

E. Range Management Plans. Where grazing is anticipated to be a significant, widespread land use with potential for creating environmental harm, DNR will develop range management plans (RMPs) separately or as part of a general land management plan as described before issuing grazing leases or permits. RMPs will be developed by the Division of Land and Water Management, in consultation with the Divisions of Agriculture and Forestry, ADF&G, SCS, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The provisions of RMPs, listed below, will provide the basis for approval of grazing operations plans (see below) and of stipulations to be included in grazing leases and permits. RMPs will not be required where grazing is a minor use with a few animals and little land area involved. DNR will determine where range management plans are appropriate, based on consultation with other affected agencies, including ADF&G.

1. Stocking Densities. The state shall use standard United States Department of Agriculture range assessment procedures or other scientifically acceptable methods to identify the abundance, distribution, annual productivity, nutrition, and seasonal availability of range vegetation available for grazing. Forage availability, expressed as animal unit months (AUMs), and grazing schedules shall be used to establish maximum allowable stocking densities. Stocking densities will also consider wildlife forage requirements and will not exceed the sustainable range production level.
2. Water Quality Protection. Range management plans will state how anadromous fish streams, other waterways, and lakes will be protected from the

adverse impacts of grazing. Fencing may be required to protect portions of waterbodies and their riparian habitat. Identification of specific watering sites, feeding stations, headquarter sites, or other improvements, may be required to minimize the adverse impacts of grazing.

3. Annual Grazing Schedule. Range management plans will establish spring and fall dates for release and removal of stock on grazing lands. This may be necessary to protect the range and to minimize competition between stock and wildlife.
4. Map of Proposed Grazing Areas. Range management plans will include a map that shows the location, acreages, and configurations of proposed lease and permit areas.
5. Physical Improvements. Range management plans will show proposed feed lot sites, stock watering sites, supplemental feeding stations, farm headquarters sites, fences, and other improvements necessary to minimize conflicts between grazing and other resource values. Range management plans shall include, where appropriate, guidelines for the design, location, or use of roads, trails, bridges, and other improvements or actions that may be necessary or incidental to grazing operations.
6. Environmental Monitoring. Range management plans will establish procedures to monitor the impacts of grazing on wildlife, vegetation, and soil stability and establish conditions under which a lessee's or permittee's grazing operations plan may be modified to prevent environmental degradation.
7. Livestock-predator Conflicts. Range management plans will establish measures necessary to minimize livestock-predator conflicts. The state will not be responsible for loss of livestock to predators.
8. Examination For Disease. All livestock shall be examined by a state licensed veterinarian for diseases and parasites. All livestock will be free of visible symptoms of any infectious or contagious disease and parasites before placing stock on the permit or lease area. Livestock that carry an infectious or contagious disease will be restricted from placement on the range for a 60-day period to allow for treatment and retesting by a licensed veterinarian. Diseased livestock will not be released.
9. Parasite Treatment. Before release, all livestock will be treated for ectoparasites and endoparasites with an approved anthelmintic. Diseased livestock will not be released.
10. Modification of Vegetation. Artificial modification of natural vegetation (for example, clearing, burning, crushing, or seeding) will be permitted only in the locations and under the guidelines specified by applicable range management plans.

F. Grazing Operations Plans. Before receiving a grazing permit or lease, a person must have an approved grazing operations plan that will become part of the lease or permit. DNR will assist a lessee or permittee in preparing a plan in consultation with ADF&G and SCS. Minimum requirements of a grazing operations plan are listed below.

1. The lessee will have a cooperative agreement with the appropriate Soil and Water Conservation District.

2. A physical resource map will identify the location, acreage, and configuration of the proposed lease or permit area(s); the proposed feedlot sites, stock watering sites, and supplemental feeding stations; and the farm headquarters site, outbuildings, fences, and other proposed improvements.
3. A statement of the lessee's proposed management activities will include range management practices considered essential or desirable, including clearing and modification of vegetation; livestock species to be stocked; annual grazing schedule and forage balance sheet.
4. A maximum stocking density will be based on DNR's range management plan for the area concerned (if such a plan exists). A minimum stocking density with a schedule for achieving it will also be established as a part of each grazing operations plan to ensure efficient use of state grazing land.

G. Standards of Approval for Grazing Operation Plans. A grazing operations plan will be approved only when it complies with an applicable range management plan. Where there is no range management plan in effect, approval will be based on consideration of the potential effects of grazing on water quality, riparian lands, soil stability, disease transmission, livestock-predator conflicts, stocking density, and competition between wildlife and stock for forage. DNR, in consultation with affected agencies, may require that appropriate measures be specified in a grazing operations plan to minimize adverse impacts.

H. Modification of Grazing Operations Plan. Modifications of grazing operations plans may be required if grazing activities are determined to cause significant degradation to the range or wildlife habitat, including but not limited to, water quality, soil stability, or sustainable forage for stock and wildlife. Modifications may also be made to accommodate greater carrying capacity. Determination that modification of a grazing operations plan is necessary will be made by DNR in consultation with the lease or permit holder, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and ADF&G.

I. Other Guidelines Affecting Agriculture. Several other guidelines may affect agricultural development. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Materials
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Agricultural land offerings will be made in areas with agricultural potential (defined by SCS Soil Survey) and near existing transportation. Agricultural offerings will be agricultural homesteads or small agricultural projects. Large scale agricultural projects are not proposed. Specific areas to be offered under agricultural programs are listed below:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Approximate Net Acres</u>
Tonsina North (mixed ag, nonag)	*
Tonsina North Addition	2,000
Tazlina - across the pipeline	3,000
Klutina South - state-owned land southwest of Copper Center	1,000
Kenny Lake - between Edgerton Highway and Tonsina River	<u>undetermined</u>
Total Agricultural Offerings	6,000

*Acreage included under settlement listing, p. 2-30.

Most of the other state lands that have agricultural potential are included in a resource management category. These lands cannot be feasibly developed at this time because access is difficult or they are in areas with conflicting land status. Resource management lands are retained with the option for their eventual use by agriculture or forestry.

The acreages of any area can be adjusted up or down based on the amount of land determined suitable for offering during the land disposal planning process. The total acres of settlement and agricultural land offered in the basin will not exceed 18,000 acres.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Goals

Maintain and Protect Publicly Owned Habitat Base. The state will maintain in public ownership and protect the habitat values of sufficient suitable lands and waters to provide for the habitat needs of fish and wildlife resources necessary to maintain or enhance public use and economic benefits.

Ensure Access to Public Lands and Waters. Ensure access to public lands and waters, where appropriate, to promote or enhance public use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources. Access improvements should be designed to match the public use objectives for the area under consideration.

Mitigate Habitat Loss. When resource development projects occur, reduction in the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat should be avoided or minimized.

Contribute to Economic Diversity. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources and habitats to contribute directly or indirectly to local, regional, and state economies through commercial, subsistence, sport and nonconsumptive uses, while working to achieve the economic development of other resources.

Management Guidelines

A. Habitat Manipulation. Habitat manipulation through controlled burning, water control, timber management practices, or other measures may be used to improve habitat for certain fish and wildlife species where feasible and compatible with other primary uses.

B. Activities in Important Waterfowl Habitat. In important waterfowl habitat, activities that require a permit, lease, or development plan and produce high levels of acoustical or visual disturbance from sources such as boat traffic, blasting, dredging, and seismic operations will, to the extent feasible and prudent, be avoided during sensitive periods. Where it is not feasible and prudent to avoid such activities, other mitigative measures will be considered to attempt to avoid significant impacts. The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will be consulted for assistance in identifying areas of important waterfowl habitat.

C. Structures in Fish Habitat. Structures in fish habitat will, to the extent feasible, be designed to minimize impacts on fish migration, spawning, and rearing.

D. Water Intake Structures. When issuing appropriations for waters that provide fish habitat, DNR will require that practical water intake structures be installed that do not entrain or impinge on fish. The most simple and cost-effective technology may be used to implement this guideline.

Water intake structures will be screened and intake velocities will be limited to prevent entrapment, entrainment, or injury to fish. The structures that support intakes should be designed to prevent fish from being led into the intake. Other effective techniques may also be used to achieve this guideline. Screen size, water velocity, and intake design will be determined in consultation with ADF&G.

E. Threatened and Endangered Species. All land use activities should be conducted consistent with the federal Endangered Species Act to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of threatened or endangered species of fish or wildlife or their continued use of an area and to avoid modification or destruction of their habitat.

Specific mitigation recommendations should be identified through interagency consultation for any land use activity that potentially affects threatened or endangered species. In Alaska, five species are listed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened (T) or endangered (E) in accordance with the federal Endangered Species Act, as amended:

	<u>Status</u>
1. Arctic peregrine falcon (<u>Falco peregrinus tundrius</u>)	T
2. American peregrine falcon (<u>Falco peregrinus anatum</u>)	E
3. Aleutian Canada goose (<u>Branta canadensis leucopareia</u>)	E
4. Eskimo curlew (<u>Numenius borealis</u>)	E
5. Short-tailed albatross (<u>Diomedea alabaturus</u>)	E

The Eskimo curlew and short-tailed albatross are not likely found in the Copper River Basin area. The American peregrine falcon is probably present in small numbers, and the Arctic subspecies may be present only during migration. However, little effort has been expended in surveying the area for peregrine falcons. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to conduct a survey along the Copper River during the summer of 1987.

Activities that potentially affect bald and golden eagles will be consistent with the federal and state endangered species act and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended.

The Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be consulted on questions that involve endangered species.

F. Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas. These areas will be managed to protect the nesting habitats of trumpeter swans and to require land uses to minimize disturbance to swans. General guidelines listed below apply to the following areas:

- Management Unit 4: North of Glenn Highway and Snowshoe Lake
- Management Units 6a and 6b: Crosswind Lake area
- Management Units 9a and 9c: Between Tazlina and Klutina Rivers
- Management Unit 26: Lower Gakona River

General guidelines that apply to permits and leases in these areas are listed below:

1. Surface leasing (other than for oil and gas activities) is prohibited unless ADF&G determines that the proposed use will be compatible with the protection of trumpeter swans and swan habitat, or DNR determines it is not feasible and prudent to prohibit the activity.
2. Oil and gas and mineral exploration activities are allowed, and surface leasing that support oil and gas activities may be allowed; access and certain other activities that would disturb swans will be restricted from May 1 to August 31.
3. Overland access regulated by permit and other activities that require permits will be prohibited from May 1 to August 31 unless ADF&G determines the activity is compatible with the protection of trumpeter swans and swan habitat or DNR determines it is not feasible and prudent to prohibit these activities. Most overland access is difficult or impossible during this period because of the amount of standing water.
4. When DNR determines that it is not feasible and prudent to prohibit a proposed activity and ADF&G determines that the proposed activity is incompatible with

protection of trumpeter swans and their habitat, DNR authorizations will include all portions of the guideline in the following paragraph that ADF&G recommends as necessary to protect swans and their habitat. If ADF&G and DNR staff cannot agree, the final decision on the necessary restrictions or prohibitions will be made by the Commissioner of DNR in consultation with the Commissioner of ADF&G.

Activities that may damage swan nesting habitat which require permits should be restricted or prohibited from May 1 through August 31 in at least one-quarter mile of current or potential swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes, or lakes. Activities requiring permits that may cause visual or noise disturbance should be restricted or prohibited from May 1 through August 31 within at least 1/4 mile of occupied swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes or lakes. This includes actions that may not in themselves be damaging or disturbing to swans, but which are dependent on activities that may be damaging or disturbing (for example, air access, off-road vehicles, or use of motorboats). Particular activities may be restricted or prohibited in a wider area if their potential level of damage or disturbance warrants doing so.

Note: Many activities which now occur in this area do not require permits and are not affected by this guideline. Aircraft and floatplane landings, hunting, and fishing in traditionally used areas are not affected by this guideline.

G. Other Trumpeter Swan Nesting Areas. In trumpeter swan nesting areas other than those described in the preceding guideline, all land use activities that would disturb nesting swans or detrimentally alter the nesting habitat will be avoided to the extent feasible and prudent. Where these activities are deemed feasible and prudent, they will be conducted to minimize disturbance to nesting swans or detrimental alteration of habitat. Leases or permits may include seasonal restrictions on activities to avoid disturbance to swans. Consultation with the ADF&G will be used to identify current or potential nesting habitat and to determine guidelines to follow and activities to avoid.

Construction of transmission lines in trumpeter swan habitat should be avoided. If transmission lines are constructed, they should be sited in forested areas and kept close to treetop level; wires should be strung in one horizontal plane rather than in multiple, vertical stacks. Where wires cross rivers, marshes, and other open spaces, they should be marked so that they are visible to swans.

H. Mitigation. All land use activities should be conducted with appropriate planning and implementation to avoid or minimize foreseeable or potential adverse effects on fish and wildlife populations or their habitats:

1. Attempt to avoid the loss of natural fish and wildlife habitat.
2. Where habitat loss cannot be avoided, minimize loss and the need for habitat restoration or maintenance efforts:
 - Consider fish and wildlife habitat and use in the early phases of development project planning and design to minimize the spatial and temporal extent of impacts.
 - Develop siting and design criteria that will minimize wildlife-caused damage to life and property where conflicts between people and animals may arise.
 - Request information on the best management practices from the Department of Fish and Game and other appropriate agencies.

3. When loss of habitat productivity cannot be minimized, restore and rehabilitate the habitat that was lost or disturbed to its pre-disturbance condition where doing so is feasible and prudent. (For coal, see 11 AAC 90.)
4. When loss of existing habitat productivity is substantial and irreversible and the above objectives cannot be achieved, compensation with or enhancement of other habitats should be considered. In general, compensation with similar habitats in the same locality is preferable to compensation with other types of habitat or habitats elsewhere.

I. Other Guidelines Affecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Several other guidelines may affect the protection and management of fish and wildlife habitat. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Materials
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Although all lands serve as fish or wildlife habitats to some degree, important habitat lands generally will be managed to maintain fish and wildlife production and related public uses.

Fish. Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest are identified as the primary use of most anadromous streams and streams and lakes with important resident fish populations. To protect important salmon spawning and rearing areas and resident fish populations, certain streams and lakes will be closed to new mineral entry (see p. 2-35).

Wildlife. State land in the Copper River Basin provides habitat for moose, caribou, bear, fur bearers and other animals; these resources are used by people from throughout and outside of Alaska. Wildlife habitat is designated as a primary use on all lands important for wildlife habitat or those lands used for hunting or wildlife viewing except in areas identified for land offerings or resource management. The important trumpeter swan nesting areas should be evaluated by the legislature for special designation.

FORESTRY

Goals

Economic Development. A forest products industry that offers jobs and income and provides competitively priced products.

Personal Use. Meet the personal use needs of Alaskans within the productive capability of the land and limitations imposed by other important uses and resources.

Resource Management. Manage forests of the area to ensure long term productivity; continuous availability of forest products at reasonable cost; recognition and maintenance or enhancement of other public resources over the long term; and access for public use and enjoyment.

Protection from Destructive Agents. All forests in the area, private and public, will be protected from destructive agents, such as fire, insects, and disease, based on assessments of values at risk, benefits of fire, and protection costs in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, cooperative agreements, and fire management plans.

Management Guidelines

A. Multiple Use Management. Unless particular forms of natural resource use are specifically prohibited, all lands designated for forest use are intended to be managed for the fullest possible range of beneficial uses. The relative importance of each use will be specified in the management intent statements and controlled by the management guidelines for each management unit.

B. Timber Salvage. Timber with commercial or personal use value should be salvaged from lands that will be cleared for other uses, such as farms and transportation or utility corridors. This will be accomplished by adherence to the following guidelines.

1. The Division of Forestry will review proposals for significant land clearing actions and determine whether the timber is worth salvaging within the time frame of the proposed project and, if so, advise the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management on appropriate salvage methods.
2. Major projects that involve clearing large areas of forested land, such as agricultural projects, will be planned far enough in advance so that schedules can be established to allow a reasonable period of time to arrange for and conduct commercial salvage of the timber. This advance planning will provide sufficient time to conduct the inventories and harvest.
3. If timber is not salvaged before the sale of agricultural rights to farmers, the value of the timber will be included in the evaluation of the land and in the price paid by the farmers, so that the state will be compensated for the loss of this public resource.
4. Where necessary as part of the most appropriate method of timber salvage, future farm home sites, wood lots, wooded wind breaks, and other areas to be left uncleared will be delineated. This may be done whether timber on the project area will be harvested in large blocks before sale of the farms, or whether farms will be sold with the timber and then individual farmers will be responsible for land clearing and possible timber harvest. The Division of Forestry will work

with the Division of Agriculture, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Fish and Game, and the Soil Conservation Service to identify these areas to be left uncut. Identification will include flagging or otherwise marking in the field so that the timber harvest operator can distinguish between areas to harvest and areas to leave.

5. If the timber is not salvaged before sale of the land, the Division of Forestry will provide technical assistance to farmers in finding and negotiating with a logging contractor, or in conducting the harvest themselves and marketing the timber.

C. Forest Practices Act. Guidelines for forest management in this plan assume compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act. That act and implementing regulations will help guide timber harvest and ensure protection of nontimber forest resources. The guidelines in this plan apply to forest management in addition to those given by the Forest Practices regulations.

D. Wood Harvest for Personal Use. An important objective of forest management is to provide opportunities for people to harvest firewood and houselogs from public land for their personal use. Therefore, when forested lands are available near communities and where harvest for personal use is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, some of this land should be managed to help provide wood products for personal use (see p. 2-28).

E. Fire Management. Fire management practices, including prescribed burning, will be designed to reflect and be consistent with the land management policies stated in the area plan. These practices are described in the Copper River Fire Management Plan, which has been developed as part of the planning process for the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council.

F. Other Guidelines Affecting Forest Management. Several other guidelines may affect forest management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Materials
- Settlement
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Most large blocks of forest lands will be retained in state ownership with forestry designated as a primary use. The major use of forest lands in the basin will be for personal use and small sales. Forestry, dispersed recreation, and wildlife habitat are generally compatible uses. Timber harvest activities in the trumpeter swan habitats (west of St. Anne Lake) would be subject to seasonal restrictions. In other areas, forestry uses (including cutting houselogs, firewood, and commercial timber sales) are generally allowed subject to existing regulations and guidelines.

MATERIALS

Management Guidelines

A. **Preferred Material Sites.** When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials on public lands, the highest priority should be given to using existing upland material sources. Using materials from wetlands, lakes, and active¹ or inactive² floodplains of rivers or streams should be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. Sales or permits for gravel extraction will not be permitted in known fish spawning areas.

B. **Material Sites.** To minimize the construction and maintenance costs of transportation facilities, material sites should be located as near to the site where the material is used as practicable.

C. **Material Extraction From Sensitive Areas.** Material extraction from wetlands, lakes, or stream corridors (including active and inactive floodplains) should occur only after design consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Army Corps of Engineers, and Department of Environmental Conservation.

If the only feasible and prudent source of gravel is an active or inactive flood plain of a stream or river, the following guidelines³ will be used, in addition to the design consultation required above, to minimize negative impacts of material extraction on other resources and uses.

1. Stream types should be selected for material extraction based on the following order of preference (most to least preferable): braided, split, meandering, sinuous, and straight. This order of preference reflects the availability of gravel from exposed bars. The largest volumes are available from braided systems and the least from straight systems. An additional factor is the decreasing floodplain width of the stream types identified above. Wider floodplains allow extraction further from the river channel which reduces the environmental impacts.
2. Generally, the largest river feasible should be selected for a gravel operation in a given area. Larger rivers have higher volumes of gravel and a wider floodplain. The proportionally smaller disturbance in large river systems will reduce the overall effect of gravel removal.

¹ **Active Floodplain** - that portion of the floodplain that is flooded frequently; it contains flowing channels, high-water channels, and adjacent bars and usually contains little or no vegetation.

² **Inactive Floodplain** - that portion of the floodplain that is flooded infrequently; it may contain high-water and abandoned channels and is usually lightly to heavily vegetated.

³ These guidelines are adopted from: 'Gravel Removal Studies in Arctic and Subarctic Floodplains in Alaska', U.S.F.W.S., Biological Services Program, June 1980. More detailed guidelines are continued in the 'Guidelines Manual' that accompanies that report.

3. Mining gravel from active channels should be avoided to reduce detrimental effects on water quality, aquatic habitat, and biota. However, if hydraulic changes can be minimized, in-channel sites will replenish more rapidly than other areas, and effects on the terrestrial biota and scenic quality of the floodplain will be avoided or greatly minimized.

Before gravel is extracted from the active floodplain, channel of a stream, or river, the State Geologist should be consulted to ensure that the planned operation does not exceed the annual rate of gravel deposition and cause upstream erosion. The State Geologist needs to establish the rate of deposition in rivers or streams when large quantities of gravel will be taken from the active floodplain or channel over long periods of time.

4. Whenever possible, avoid vegetated habitats.
5. When scraping gravel in active or inactive floodplains, maintain buffers that will constrain active channels to their original locations and configurations.
6. When small quantities of gravel are required (up to 50,000 yd³), sites should be selected that have only unvegetated gravel deposits.
7. When large quantities of gravel are required (generally over 50,000 yd³), large rivers that contain sufficient gravel in unvegetated areas or terrace locations on the inactive side of the floodplain should be selected and mined by pit excavation.
8. If pit excavation is used, design a configuration with high shoreline and water depth diversity and provide islands.
9. If mining in vegetated areas, save all overburden, vegetative slash, and debris to use during site rehabilitation to facilitate vegetative recovery. This material should be piled or broadcast so that it will not be washed downstream.

D. Maintaining Other Uses and Resources When Siting and Operating Material Sites.

Before materials are extracted, the manager will ensure that the requirements of the permit or lease adequately protect other important resources and uses such as existing water rights; water resource quantity and quality; navigation; fish and wildlife habitat and harvest; commercial forest resources; recreation resources and opportunities; historic and archaeological resources; adjacent land uses; and access to public or private lands. The disposal of materials should be consistent with the applicable management intent statement and management guidelines of the plan.

The manager should also determine if other existing material sites can be vacated and rehabilitated as a result of opening a new material site.

E. Land Sales in Areas of High Material Potential. Generally, if a designated settlement area contains sand and gravel deposits, rock sources or other similar, high value material resources, a pit area will be identified before land offerings and retained in public ownership for future use.

F. Screening and Rehabilitation. Material sites should be screened from roads, residential areas, recreational areas and other areas of significant human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site to allow for such screening. Where appropriate, rehabilitation of material sites will be required. For additional guidelines affecting material extraction see policies under the section on subsurface resources.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Materials. A number of guidelines may affect materials. For details of these guidelines, see the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Existing gravel pits will be retained in state ownership. Most areas identified as having high or very high potential for additional sand and gravel will be retained in public ownership and be available for use.

RECREATION, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES

Goals

Recreation Opportunities. Alaska's residents and increasing numbers of out-of-state visitors desire and expect accessible outdoor recreational opportunities. Conveniently located public recreation areas; well designed, maintained, and safe recreation facilities; and opportunities to appreciate Alaska's history and diverse cultures should be provided to aid the physical and mental health of a highly competitive society:

1. Develop a state park system of parks, recreation areas, trails, historic parks, rivers, and sites that provide a wide range of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages, abilities, and use preferences near population centers and major travel routes.
2. Provide recreation opportunities on land and water areas that serve multiple purposes such as habitat protection, timber management, and mineral resource extraction.
3. Assist communities through cooperative planning, conveyance of state lands, and grants-in-aid for parks and trails within population centers.
4. Encourage commercial development of recreational facilities and services through land sales, leases, loans and technical assistance where public recreation needs can most effectively be provided by private enterprise.

Recreation Resource Protection. Alaska's natural and cultural resources are the foundation of Alaska outdoor recreation and they must be protected. Soil, forests, prehistoric and historic sites and objects, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic areas and access to open space must be preserved if Alaska's scenic and recreation values are to be maintained for future generations. Long-term public appreciation of Alaska's natural and human history and perpetuation of Alaska's distinctive identity can be accomplished:

1. Protect and portray natural features of regional or statewide significance and cultural features representative of major themes of Alaska history in historic sites, parks, and preserves of the State Park System.
2. Assist other land management agencies to perpetuate natural and historic features on other state lands, in community park systems, and on private property by providing technical assistance and grants-in-aid.

Economic Development. Alaska is an international tourist attraction. Outdoor recreation has grown dramatically since statehood and is now the state's third largest industry; its economic potential has just begun to be realized. Areas developed and managed primarily for outdoor recreation and the appreciation of scenic and historic values fulfill expectations of tourists. One-fifth of the visitors to Alaska's state parks come from out of state. In addition to the influx of tourism dollars, many jobs and services are created for Alaska residents. Recreation industry employment can be increased:

1. Rehabilitate and maintain recreation facilities that enable greater appreciation of Alaska's scenic and historic resources.

2. Increase the number of attractions through additions to the Alaska State Park System.
3. Develop cooperative interagency information centers for visitors.
4. Maintain viable wildlife populations.

Cultural Resources. Preserve, protect, and interpret the historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Alaska in accordance with the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

Management Guidelines

A. Public Use Cabins. A system of public use cabins should be established. The Department will develop administrative procedures for managing a state public use cabin program, set priorities for cabin sites, and seek a budget for construction, maintenance, and program management. Cooperation will be sought with municipal or federal governments or nonprofit organizations for construction or maintenance of cabins. General locations for cabins have been identified by this plan.

B. Private Recreational Facilities on Public Land. Lodges, tent camps, ski areas, or other private facilities designed to be run as private, profit-making recreation facilities will be permitted or leased if the facility fulfills the following conditions set by a management plan or a finding in accordance with AS 38.05.035:

1. Private recreation development adds to or enhances public recreation opportunities.
2. The amount of use generated by the facility will not exceed the best available calculation of the recreation carrying capacity of the area. This calculation will be based on management intent and guidelines of this or subsequent plans for the area.
3. The facility will be sited, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that creates the least conflict with natural values and traditional uses of the area.
4. The facility will be sited and designed in accordance with stream corridor, access, wetlands, and other guidelines of this plan.

Final approval of a permit or lease for the facility will be given only after consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

C. Maximum Use of Sites. Achieve optimum use of recreation sites consistent with maintaining high quality recreation experiences, environmental quality, and safety.

D. Identify and Determine the Significance of All Cultural Resources on State Land Through:

1. Cultural resources surveys will be conducted by the Department of Natural Resources personnel.
2. Qualified individuals and organizations will be encouraged to conduct cultural resource surveys on state lands.

3. Planned surveys and inventories will be conducted as a cooperative effort among state, federal, and local or Native groups.

E. Protect Significant Cultural Resources:

1. Review construction projects or land uses for potential conflict with cultural resources.
2. Cooperate with concerned government agencies, statewide or local groups, and individuals to develop guidelines and recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate identified or potential conflict.

F. Scenic Resources. All development along the Glenn (including Tok cut-off), Richardson, and Edgerton Highways should be located and designed to maximize views from the highway.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Recreation and Cultural Resources. Several other guidelines may affect recreation management practices. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Lakeshore management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Recreation. Dispersed recreation activity such as snowmachining, cross-country skiing, hiking, all-terrain vehicle use and canoeing occur throughout the basin. Developed recreation facilities on state land are limited to small recreation sites at Little Nelchina, Tolsona Creek, Dry Creek, Squirrel Creek, Little Tonsina, Mt. Billy Mitchell, Worthington Glacier, Blueberry Lake, Liberty Falls, and Porcupine Creek.

Most high value recreation lands will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. This includes state land near Tazlina Lake, St. Anne Lake, Kaina Lake, High Lake, Tonsina Lake, Tonsina River, McCarthy, Long Lake and Summit Lake. Three areas that will be actively managed for recreation are the Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek area, Nelchina-Tazlina recreation rivers, and Thompson Pass. The plan recommends that these areas be considered for legislative designation to ensure long-term retention in public ownership and management for recreation. The plan explicitly provides for transportation and utility routes through the Thompson Pass area. An adequate land base will be reserved (through Inter-agency Land Management Agreements) at existing recreation sites. The Gulkana River (state-owned land under the river) will also be designated as a State Wild and Scenic River to complement the National Wild and Scenic River designation.

Public Use Cabins. Public use cabins may be built (or acquired), contingent on funding, at these locations:

1. North end of Tonsina Lake [management unit (MU) 14]
2. Tazlina Lake (MU 1 and 8)
3. Kaina Lake or Upper Kaina Valley (MU 8)
4. Upper Klutina Valley (MU 11)

Recommended Legislative Designations. The State Legislature should consider designating certain state land for long-term retention in public ownership. This land would be managed for recreation. Areas proposed for consideration are listed below:

1. Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek
2. Thompson Pass
3. Nelchina-Tazlina recreation rivers
4. Gulkana River (state-owned submerged lands and water column)

REMOTE CABINS

Goals

Providing Opportunities for Private Use of State Lands. Provide opportunities for isolated cabin development in remote locations where survey and conveyance are impractical, where disposal of land would cause potential conflicts with other resources and uses, or where a long-range interest in public ownership and use exist.

Resource and Economic Impacts. Contribute positively to other uses of natural resources, and minimize the undesired impacts of remote cabins on other resource uses.

Community and Social Impacts. Minimize undesired changes in the character of life among nearby communities or residents by remote cabins while considering the needs and demands of all state residents.

Management Guidelines

A. Minimize Conflicts. Where remote cabins are allowed, they will be offered in locations, numbers, and under management guidelines that minimize conflicts with other anticipated forms of resource use and management (for example, wildlife habitat, forestry, agriculture, or public recreation and mining).

B. Buildings, Density and Specific Guidelines. Limitations on the number or size of buildings, allowed or prohibited forms of access, and any other considerations appropriate to the area may be established before remote cabin permits are offered.

C. Other Guidelines. The stream corridor and instream flow, trail corridor, lakeshore management, and wetlands management guidelines for land disposal projects also apply to remote cabin permits.

D. Type of Interest in Land. Remote cabin permits are not intended to be converted to fee simple disposals of land that otherwise would be retained in state ownership. Guidelines for remote cabins in each area are designed to avoid creating future pressures for actual disposal (for example, by setting appropriate number and density limitations).

E. Rights-of-Way. New rights-of-way to remote cabin sites will not be granted unless doing so protects other important public values.

F. Mineral Entry. Unless closed for other reasons than the presence of permitted remote cabins, remote cabin permit areas will remain open to mineral entry.

G. Unauthorized Use. Before an area is opened to remote cabins, DNR must determine how many unauthorized cabins already exist in that area and resolve these situations. The total number of cabins in a given area should not exceed the total assigned by this plan. (This number does not include trapping cabins.)

H. Implementation of Remote Cabin Program. This program should not be implemented in the Copper River Basin until DNR has sufficient budget and staff to ensure that the statutes, regulations, and guidelines of this plan related to remote cabins are followed. This includes the ability to deal with unauthorized uses of state land, commercial uses, and locations of cabins.

Land Allocation Summary

Remote Private Cabins. DNR can issue permits (valid for up to 25 years) to individuals to build temporary cabins in remote areas. Up to 50 remote cabins will be allowed in the following areas:

- Manker and Greyling Creek drainage - up to 2 cabins (MU 11D)
- Ahtel Creek drainage - 5 cabins (MU 29A)
- Indian Creek drainage - 7 cabins (MU 29A)
- East Fork Chistochina drainage - 8 cabins (MU 29A)
- Chistochina River drainage - 10 cabins (MU 29A)
- Sinona Creek and Lake drainage - 8 cabins (MU 29A)
- Gakona River Excelsior Creek drainage - 10 cabins (MU 29A)

Trapping Cabin Construction Permits. Trapping cabins will be allowed in all areas consistent with existing regulations except proposed land offerings and legislative designations at Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek, Thompson Pass, and in the Nelchina-Tazlina state recreation river corridor.

SETTLEMENT

Goals

Private Land Use. Make available to present and future Alaskans suitable public land needed for private settlement purposes. DNR can identify and offer lands that have characteristics which make them suitable for year-round residence, seasonal residence, or self-sufficient remote residence, but once the land is sold the owner must decide how to use the land. DNR can not guarantee that, for instance, land sold to satisfy the demand for seasonal residences will not be used for permanent residences. Nor can DNR assure that future land owners will not demand public services and improvements such as schools. DNR is trying to satisfy five categories in the Copper River Basin.

1. Year-round residences or community expansion. DNR will offer accessible land that is suitable to meet the needs of growing communities. This category serves people whose principal place of residence--and usually work--is or will be in the area of the disposal. The state owns little land in or near communities. Where the state does have land suitable for this purpose, disposal will be a high priority unless there are overriding public values.
2. Recreational use or seasonal residences. This category is the most common use of land disposed of by the state. DNR will, where feasible, avoid poor quality sites, such as north facing slopes, and offer quality sites with characteristics such as proximity to water, views, good hunting, or interesting topography. Because there is a limited supply of state land with characteristics that make it highly desirable, the state will have to offer some lands that do not have exceptional amenity values to meet the demand for recreational and seasonal use.

The state will also offer opportunities for short term private use of state-owned cabins through the state's remote cabin program.

3. Year-round, relatively self-sufficient remote residences. DNR will provide opportunities for a few people who wish to pursue a remote, more or less self-sufficient lifestyle. Generally, the state will not offer tracts large enough for families to subsist on, but rather will offer smaller parcels adjacent to public land on which the public can gather firewood and houselogs and hunt and fish.

This category, although important, will not be a high priority in the disposal program because it is expensive (due to survey costs) and requires a commitment of large amounts of public land to satisfy relatively few people; and it is less in demand than the preceding two categories.

4. Settlement associated with natural resource development projects. The state will set a high priority on making land available for the development of new towns or the expansion of existing communities adjacent to major resource development projects. In some cases, the state must decide if leasing lands for a campsite or temporary settlement is preferable to selling land for a townsite.
5. Industrial or commercial development. To stimulate or facilitate economic development, DNR will sell, lease, or protect for future use suitable land for private, commercial, and industrial use. Requirements for these uses are highly site-specific, and disposal decisions will be made case by case as demands arise.

Resource and Economic Impacts. Contribute positively to other uses of natural resources and minimize the undesired impacts of land offerings on opportunities for resource use.

Land Prices. Title to lands offered in the homestead and homesite programs may be acquired by residency and construction thereon, as defined by appropriate statutes. Other public lands offered for private ownership under the general land disposal program will be sold for current, fair market value, subject but not limited to the exceptions noted in AS 38.05.055 and 38.05.057.

Fiscal Impacts. Minimize future fiscal costs to local or state government for services, wildfire management, and infrastructure requirements that result from settlement of state lands.

Community and Social Impacts. Minimize undesired changes in the character of life among nearby communities or residents caused by land disposal projects while considering the needs and demands of all state residents.

Coordination With Local Governments. Coordinate state land offering programs with similar programs of local governments to best achieve common objectives. Consider availability of land in private ownership when determining the amount, type, and location of state land offerings.

Management Guidelines

A. Planning and Coordination

1. **Long-term Program.** The disposal program will be designed to make land available for at least 20 years to ensure that Alaskans have the opportunity to purchase public land in the future. The pacing of land disposals will be controlled through the statewide disposal plan.
2. **Competition.** Although the state will coordinate its offerings with those of other landowners, it may compete with the private sector or local governments if necessary to satisfy demand, provide market choice, or moderate prices.
3. **Local Plans.** DNR will comply with provisions of local comprehensive plans regarding the pace, location, and density of land development except to the extent that local requirements are inconsistent with a major overriding state interest. No local governments exist in the Copper River Basin at this time.
4. **Design Review Boards.** In addition to holding public meetings, a local design review board will be established when, in the opinion of the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management, it would be a constructive way to involve persons affected by a disposal project. A design review board will consist of a maximum of five citizens and local government officials appointed by an appropriate local government official. Where local government does not exist or is unwilling to appoint such a board, DNR will make the appointments if sufficient interest exists.

The design review board is advisory and will participate in and review all stages of design, including location, design of parcel size, transportation routes, and open space. The board will make recommendations to the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management at appropriate times during the design process.

5. Coordination with Local Governments. If any local governments are formed in the planning area, state land offering programs should be coordinated with similar programs of local government to best achieve common objectives. To this end, DNR would develop a joint disposal plan with any municipality (for state and municipal lands). This plan would consider the municipality's fiscal planning for road extension priorities and its plans for levels of services in different areas. If a municipality has a comprehensive land use plan, that plan will provide direction for disposal priorities. The disposal plan should demonstrate what community objectives would be met and how the requested capital improvement funds would support municipality-wide priorities for roads and service extensions to benefit current and future residents. The disposal plan should demonstrate how increased access and development will promote use of other resources such as agriculture, mining, forestry and recreation, and thus provide statewide as well as regional benefits.
6. Pacing. Due to concerns about impacts on community lifestyles or resources, the following land offerings should be phased over a number of years:

Tonsina Plateau (MU 17)
Fireweed Mountain (MU 24)
Paxson - Meiers Lake (MU 27)

B. Types of Offerings

1. Owner Staking. In areas where severe land use conflicts and inefficient use of resources are expected to result from owner staking, DNR will offer homestead parcels with predesignated boundaries. This commonly will occur in areas on or near the road system or existing communities.
2. Staking Outside Designated Project Areas. Entrants are responsible for establishing the location of their parcels accurately. Title will not be granted to parcels located outside the boundaries of project areas. Entrants who incorrectly locate parcels outside designated areas may be given a second opportunity to stake within the proper area.
3. Isolated Parcels of State Land. The state has acquired--and will continue to acquire--isolated parcels of land through foreclosure, escheat, and other methods. The following guidelines apply to management and possible disposal of these parcels.
 - In or Near Existing Communities. If the parcel is in or immediately adjacent to an existing community or past state land offering, the parcel can be offered for settlement unless it is appropriate as a site(s) for schools, gravel pits, roads, parks, sewer treatment plants, or other public facilities.
 - Parcels Near Other State Land. If the parcel adjoins or is surrounded by other state land, it should be managed according to the management intent and guidelines applicable to the adjacent lands.
 - Parcels Not Near Other State Land. Parcels, such as mining claims acquired by foreclosure in the middle of a federal conservation system unit, should be considered for sale or exchange to the adjacent land owner.

4. Agricultural Sales. Designated agricultural areas can be offered under the settlement programs (for example, nonagricultural homesteads or subdivisions) if found unsuitable for agriculture. See page 2-3.

C. Protection, Management, and Enhancement of Other Resources

1. Protection of Life and Property. The state will, by retention of public lands and coordination with local governments, discourage development in areas of flooding, unstable ground, significant avalanche risk, and other hazards.

Public lands within the surveyed 100-year floodplain should remain in public ownership except where a regulatory floodway and flood fringe have been identified through detailed hydrologic studies. When such studies have been conducted, public lands within the flood fringe may be offered for sale. Land offerings within the flood fringe should be for low density development such as private recreation cabins or agriculture rather than dense residential subdivisions. DNR will provide available information about flood zones in land disposal brochures when a disposal is in a potential flood hazard area.

In drainages where the 100-year floodplain has not been surveyed, the best available information will be used to determine the flood hazard zone that should remain in public ownership.

2. Protection and Management of Valuable Environmental Processes. The state will provide a publicly owned open-space system to preserve important fish and wildlife habitats and natural areas such as shorelands, freshwater wetlands, riparian lands, watersheds, and surface and ground water recharge areas. (See policies on these subjects for details.)

Wetlands with important hydrologic, habitat, or recreational values and adjacent buffer strips will be retained for open space. Systems of publicly owned land will be designed to provide the necessary linkage and continuity to protect or increase values for human uses and wildlife movements. In some places, large areas may be retained to provide adequate terrestrial habitat.

3. Protection and Enhancement of Scenic Features. The state generally will retain in public ownership unique natural features such as cliffs, bluffs and waterfalls, and foreground open space for panoramic vistas. Public access to such amenities will also be preserved.

Land offerings along scenic roads popular for sightseeing will be located and designed to minimize their impacts on scenic vistas. Unusual land forms or scenic features will be retained in state ownership for enjoyment and use by the public. Such lands include islands in rivers unless land disposals can be designed to prevent negative effects on the scenic and recreational values of the area.

4. Protection and Enhancement of Recreational, Educational, and Cultural Opportunities. Project the need for and retain appropriate areas for outdoor recreation, trails, campsites, boat launches, historic sites, and areas for scientific study. Areas for intensive and dispersed use will be preserved.

D. Design

1. Provision of Public Land for Communities. Project the need for and retain appropriate greenbelts, public-use corridors, personal-use wood lots, buffer

areas, commons, building setbacks, sites for schools, gravel pits, roads, parks, and other public facilities such as sewer treatment plants and health clinics, as well as other open spaces to help create a desirable land use pattern in developing areas.

2. Cost of Public Services. In accordance with AS 38.04.010, DNR will attempt to guide year-round settlement to areas where services exist or can be provided with reasonable efficiency. State land that is located beyond the range of existing schools and other necessary public services or that is located where development of sources of employment is improbable may be made available for seasonal recreation or for low density settlement with sufficient separation between residences so that public services will not be necessary or expected. Wildfire management costs that result from settlement will be considered and minimized to the extent feasible.
3. Provision of Access. The State will ensure that legal, practical public access routes (roads, trails, or other options most appropriate to the particular situation) are identified and reserved within land offerings. Field assessment will be used, and where appropriate, road grade profiles prepared, to ensure that access routes are feasible.

Section line or other easements will not be relied on for access without field inspection of the practicality of such routes. Identified access routes will be described in the land offering brochure. Where needed to reduce the likelihood of conflicts with existing private owners, DNR may brush or flag public access routes to land offering projects.

DNR will comply with the applicable provisions of local government subdivision ordinances, including capital improvements. Where no subdivision ordinance is in effect, DNR will ensure actual physical access is available or can be developed (road, air, or water) to each new state subdivision project. The department will evaluate the need to construct new access to a subdivision case by case.

4. Personal Use of Nearby Resources. One of the considerations in deciding the location, size, and design of land disposal projects will be the nearby supply of resources such as firewood and houselogs and the expected demand from people who will own the parcels. Where it is anticipated that land recipients will want to use timber resources, nearby wood lots may be retained instead of selling individual parcels large enough to meet the personal use demands of the owner. This would provide some nearby public land on which firewood and houselogs can be gathered while keeping open options for other uses of those lands when access develops or new demands are identified.
5. Subdivision Design. Subdivisions will be designed to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural setting and the recreational opportunities that make an area attractive to potential buyers.

The following slope and lot size standards should generally be applied in state subdivisions, assuming that the parcels have been reviewed and approved as required by Department of Environmental Conservation regulations:

<u>Percent Average Slope</u>	<u>Minimum Lot Size</u>
0-12	1 acre
13-20	4 acres
21-30	10 acres
greater than 30	No development

Other procedures and standards for subdivision design will be as set forth in 'Design of Residential and Recreational Subdivisions,' in the Division of Land and Water Management's Policy and Procedures Manual.

6. **Easements.** Easements will be used as one means to acquire rights through privately owned lands needed for public use.

Easements generally will not be used to retain a public interest in lands within a subdivision. Instead, DNR will generally retain such lands in public ownership. Exceptions to this policy may be made where the interest protected is very limited such as for local pedestrian access that is not part of an integrated neighborhood or community trail system. This policy will minimize confusion between public use and private ownership rights.

E. Other Guidelines Affecting Settlement. Several other guidelines may affect settlement. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Materials
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

The Copper River Plan will determine what state land will be offered for private ownership during the next 20 years. The amount, type, and location of land offerings are determined by balancing demand for land in the region and the social, fiscal, economic, and environmental impacts of land offerings. A high priority of the disposal program will be to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of land to meet these needs, including an amount necessary for market choice.

Under this plan DNR can offer approximately 18,000 acres of land through the settlement and agricultural programs. The areas to be proposed for land offerings meet these criteria:

1. The land is relatively good quality.
2. The land is relatively accessible.
3. The land is state owned or is land the state is likely to own.
4. Conflicts with wildlife and recreation are less than in other areas that are suitable for settlement in the basin. Most lands of high potential or value for mining, commercial forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, or public recreation, or lands where numerous active mining claims exist, will not be offered for sale for residential or recreational purposes. However, because so much of the state's

land has high value for habitat and recreation, it is inevitable that some of these lands will continue to be offered.

5. The public has expressed some support for land offerings in that area.

The areas which best meet these criteria are listed below.

<u>Settlement Areas</u>	<u>Potential Net Acres</u>
Glenn Highway - scattered parcels	250
Glennallen - odd tracts	500
Tonsina Plateau	2,000
Tonsina North (mixed agricultural - nonagricultural)	2,000
Tolsona Ridge - Ridgeview	2,500
Meiers Lake - Paxson area	400
Squirrel Creek	500
Fireweed Mountain II (500 acres delayed until after 1996)	900
Crosswind Lake - south and east	250
North of Nelchina River	500
Tielkel Block - Richardson Highway	500
Klutina Lake Area (depends on land ownership)	500
Northwest of Gulkana Airport	200
Reofferings	<u>1,000</u>
Total Nonagricultural Projects	12,000

A few additional areas that can be considered for land offerings (in lieu of acreage from other areas) are listed below. These areas are under dual selections by the state and Native corporations. If they are eventually transferred into state ownership, they could be offered for settlement.

Edgerton Highway	1,000 acres
Klutina South area larger block (SE. of Copper Center) - mixed agricultural/nonagricultural	500 - 1,000 acres
Mankomen Lake	500 acres

Agricultural land offerings are described on page 2-8. Total agricultural offerings proposed are 6,000 acres. Total land offerings, including agricultural offerings, are 18,000 acres. The acreages on any given area may be adjusted up or down based on the amount of land determined suitable for offering during the land disposal planning process. The total acres offered in the basin under settlement and agricultural programs will not exceed 18,000 acres.

SUBSURFACE RESOURCES

Goals

Mineral and Energy Supplies. Make metallic and nonmetallic minerals, coal, oil and gas, and geothermal resources available to contribute to the energy and mineral supplies and independence of the United States and Alaska.

Economic Development. Contribute to Alaska's economy by making subsurface resources available for development, which will provide stable job opportunities and stimulate growth of secondary and other primary industries.

State Revenues. Establish a stable source of state revenues.

Environmental Quality and Cultural Values. When developing subsurface resources, protect the integrity of the environment and affected cultural resources to the extent feasible and prudent.

State Support for Mining. Aid in the development of infrastructure (such as ports, roads, or railroads) and continue to provide geologic mapping and technical support to the mining industry.

Mineral and Coal Development Guidelines

A. Mineral and Coal Exploration. State land in the Copper River Basin may be leased or opened for coal prospecting permits if the department determines it is in the best interest of the state as required by AS 38.05.035. Before a permit is issued, DNR will determine if the surface values are significant enough to warrant restricting surface entry. Decisions on surface entry for coal adjacent to streams will be made in consultation with the affected agencies.

B. Open to Mineral Entry. All state lands that are open to mineral entry are multiple use areas where mineral development will be accommodated and encouraged. Recognized exploration methods for locatable minerals will be allowed on all state lands unless specifically closed to mining and will be subject to the conditions of a land use permit. DNR may determine that some traditional forms of access will not be allowed in specific areas to avoid resource damage.

Where an area is open to mineral entry, a miner has the right to stake a claim regardless of the surface use designation or classification. Any adverse effects of mining on surface resources or uses will be managed through compliance with state laws and regulations and the management intent and guidelines of this plan.

C. Reclamation of Mined Land. Land use permits and plans of operation for mineral development will specify measures needed to return the land to a useful state. Determination of the specific measures to be taken and whether or not a performance bond will be required will be done in consultation with the affected agencies. Specific measures may include storage and reuse of topsoil; disposal of overburden; regrading of tailings and revegetation; reestablishment of natural (not necessarily original) contours; reestablishment of a natural drainage system; long-term erosion control measures; and removal of equipment, improvements, and other man-made items.

D. Access for Mineral and Coal Development. Existing roads and trails should be used to provide access to mine sites wherever feasible. Regulations for miscellaneous land use permits require that access will be managed so that damage is minimal. (See p. 2-38.)

E. Unauthorized Use of State Lands. DNR will place a high priority on taking appropriate action against construction of illegal structures, blocking public access, or other unauthorized use of public lands for private purposes. This will include taking appropriate action against mining claimants who use their claims for facilities that are unnecessary for prospecting, extraction or basic processing activities. In carrying out this policy, emphasis will be placed on unauthorized uses that obstruct significant settlement, public recreation, other public uses, or public access.

F. Control of Visual Impacts. Guidelines will be developed as necessary through the land use permit or leasing process to minimize the adverse visual impacts of mining especially in settled areas, recreation areas, and in areas viewed from roads. In such areas, guidelines should consider, at a minimum, the following items: control of solid wastes; removal of vegetation; siting of mining structures, tailings and overburden; roads; and rehabilitation of mining sites.

G. Approval of Plans of Operation. Using procedures established under existing leasing laws and regulations, DNR reviews plans of operation required for locatable mineral leases and will consult with and carefully consider recommendations of the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). DNR will approve plans of operation if they adequately address the guidelines of the area plan and applicable laws and regulations. Violation of the plan of operations is cause for revocation of the approved plan of operation or termination of the lease.

Guidelines for Land Sales in Areas with Mineral or Coal Potential

A. Land Sales in Areas with High Mineral Potential. Generally, settlement areas designated by this plan have avoided areas of high mineral potential and areas with mining locations in good standing.

B. Land Sales in Areas with High or Moderate Coal Potential. Generally, land sales will not occur in areas of existing coal leases or areas of high coal potential as defined in 11 AAC 85.010. Land sales should be avoided in areas of moderate coal potential as defined in 11 AAC 85.010 except where land sales are determined to be the highest and best use of the land.

Guidelines for the Application of Locatable Mineral Closures

Locatable mineral closures are the most extreme management tool that can be used by DNR to resolve subsurface and other resource conflicts. AS 38.05.185(a) requires that before an area of state land can be closed to mining or mineral location, the commissioner must make a written finding that mining would be incompatible with significant surface uses. Using the criteria established in AS 38.05.185(a), DNR generally finds mining to be incompatible with the surface uses listed below and closes the area to mining or mineral location at the specified times in the decision making process. However, each situation will be evaluated separately and a determination made that the requirements of AS 38.05.185(a) have been met.

A. Areas Scheduled for Disposal. Land scheduled for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or subdivision sale will be closed to mining and mineral location at the end of the first year of the Land Availability Determination System (LADS) process (that is, approximately 2 years before the anticipated land sale).

B. Homesteading Areas. Lands available for homesteading (including agriculture homesteading) will be closed to mining and mineral location at the end of the first year of the LADS process (that is, approximately 2 years before the anticipated land sale). These areas will remain closed until the allowed number of homestead entries has occurred. At that time, those portions of the project area with few or no homesteads will be reopened for mineral entry and location unless it is determined that the settlement pattern that has resulted creates significant, irreconcilable land use conflicts.

C. Land Proposed for Exchange. Lands proposed for exchange or trade will be closed to mineral entry and location at the time a preliminary agreement to exchange the land is reached.

D. Land to be Transferred to Another Public Agency. Lands reserved for transfer to another public agency for development of a public facility or reserved as a future townsite will be closed to mineral entry and location at the time the area is classified "reserved use" or an Interagency Land Management Agreement is signed.

Guidelines for the Application of the Locatable Mineral Leasing Program

Requiring that locatable mineral developments occur under a lease is a more flexible management tool than mineral closure. Therefore, mineral leasing is preferred over mineral closure as a management option to resolve conflicts between other significant resources and mining and mineral location. AS 38.05.185(a) requires that the commissioner determine that potential use conflicts on state land require that mining be allowed only under written leases issued under AS 38.05.205 or the commissioner has determined that the land was mineral in character at the time of state selection. Under 11 AAC 86.135(b), if a surface disposal area is not closed entirely to mineral entry, it will be made available only by leasehold location.

After consultation with ADF&G and DEC, and concurrent with the designation of an area being open to locatable mineral entry under lease, DNR will identify potential conflicts between other resources and mining and other resources that need protection. DNR will also state the general nature of stipulations to be used in leases to protect those other resources.

Resource Values that May be in Conflict with Coal or Mineral Development

The decision to apply mineral closures or locatable mineral leasing will be made by the commissioner within the parameters set by the Alaska Statutes. AS 38.05.185(a) requires that the commissioner determine that mining is incompatible with a significant surface use before an area can be closed to mining. The same section of the statutes requires that the commissioner determine that a potential use conflict exists before requiring that development of locatable minerals be conducted only under a lease.

In some circumstances, the commissioner may find that some resource values require locatable mineral leasing, closure, or a prohibition of coal leasing and prospecting to protect their continued productivity and availability. In other circumstances, care during mineral development is all that may be necessary to protect these resources. It is impossible to predict the degree of conflict that could occur between mining and any other resource value in all circumstances. Therefore, the following categories of resource values will be evaluated to determine if locatable

mineral leasing, prohibition of coal leasing or prospecting, or another management option is needed to protect the continued productivity and availability of the resource in conflict.

A. Retained Lands with Significant Commercial, Industrial, or Public Use Values

- Lands with significant coal, oil and gas, timber or other commercial potential.
- Lands recognized as future transportation corridors where access for pipelines, road, railroads, or other surface transportation infrastructure could be blocked or impeded by mining claims. (After the alignment is established, areas will be reopened if they are surplus land.)
- Lands and waters that provide unique or unusual opportunities for human use and enjoyment, such as fishing, hunting, trapping, photography, and fish and wildlife viewing.
- Lands and waters that provide significant recreation opportunities, such as clear water rivers that are now or are expected to be important for recreation, key public access sites, and recreation facilities.
- Lands and waters that are the watershed of a community water supply.
- Sand and gravel pits, stone quarries, or other significant known material sites where development might be impeded if mineral claims were staked.

B. Retained Lands With Significant Fish or Wildlife Resources

- Lands and waters that support protected species of plants, fish or wildlife (bald and golden eagles), threatened species (Arctic peregrine falcon), or endangered species (American peregrine falcon).
- Lands and waters that support production or maintenance of fish or wildlife species that have significant economic, recreational, scientific, educational, or cultural values or which have been given special protection through state or federal legislation or international treaty.
- State game refuges, critical habitat areas, and sanctuaries. (In decision memorandum 44 signed by the commissioner in January 1984, DNR set the statewide policy that in legislatively established Critical Habitat Areas and Wildlife Refuges mining will occur under lease. Also, individual legislatively designated areas may be recommended for mineral closure, but such a closure would be decided case by case using the criteria found in AS 38.05.185(a).)
- Other lands and waters not included above that are known to support unique or unusually large assemblages of fish or wildlife.

Oil and Gas Guidelines

Generally, oil and gas exploration, development, and production will be encouraged on state lands. Impacts on other important uses and resources will be managed through appropriate mitigation measures such as those contained in this plan and those developed during the permitting and leasing processes.

Oil and gas guidelines are not addressed here. Oil and gas guidelines specific to a particular management unit are found in Chapter 3. DNR's statewide policies for oil

and gas are found in the Five-Year Oil and Gas Leasing program. Specific stipulations for oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities will be developed and applied case by case for each oil and gas lease sale using the lease sale process.

Other Guidelines Affecting Subsurface resources

Several other guidelines may affect subsurface resources. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Public Access.
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Minerals. Mining is a primary use in the Slate Creek mining area which is the only state land with extensive mining activity. Most other mining claims and most lands with mineral potential in the Copper River Basin occur on Native lands or private claims located in the Wrangell Mountains. Approximately 3.15 million acres (97 percent) of the state land in the basin remains open to mineral entry. Approximately 108,000 acres (3 percent) of the state land in the basin would be closed to mineral entry to protect certain recreation and fish resources. Additional acreage (approximately 36,000 acres, or 1 percent) would be closed for land disposals before individual land offerings. State land remains open to mineral entry except for the Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna recreation area, Thompson Pass transportation and utility corridor, and the streams and lakes listed below. The north shore of Tazlina Lake, which contains extensive archaeological sites, will also be closed to new mineral entry. The following areas would be closed to new mineral entry to protect important salmon spawning and rearing areas, resident fish habitat, recreation and scenic resources:

- Mendeltna Creek and Old Man Lake
- Tolsona Creek
- Kaina Lake and Creek
- St. Anne Creek
- Klutina Lake and River above Manker Creek
- Mahlo River
- Manker Creek
- Tonsina Lake and River above Rainbow Creek
- Greyling Creek
- Bernard Creek
- Long Lake and Long Lake outlet
- Nizina River - Dan Creek to Spruce Point
- Slana River above Lost Creek
- Ahtel Creek
- East Fork Chistochina River below Mankomen Lake
- Unnamed tributary to Gakona River near Alder Lake and Swampy Lake
- Spring Creek
- Gulkana River

Paxson Lake
Summit Lake
Gunn Creek and Gunn Lakes
Fish Creek and Fish Lakes
Crosswind Lake

State-owned uplands within 200 feet of mean high water on both sides of these streams would also be closed to new mineral entry.

Oil and Gas. All state land is available for oil and gas exploration and leasing except state-owned shorelands under the Gulkana River. The Gulkana River is a National Wild River and adjacent federal lands are withdrawn from leasing. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to oil and gas activities in the trumpeter swan habitat areas.

Other Leaseable Minerals (Coal, sedimentary uranium, potassium, sodium, oil shale, geothermal). Any leases will be dealt with case by case consistent with the intent of the appropriate management unit.

TRANSPORTATION

Goals

These goals pertain to all forms of surface, air, and water transportation and all forms of utility or resource transportation corridors.

Support Plan Designations. Develop a transportation system needed to implement this plan and integrate it with other area wide transportation needs.

Minimize Costs. Develop a transportation system that has the lowest possible long-range costs, including construction, operations, and maintenance. Avoid unnecessary duplication of transportation facilities

Minimize Adverse Impacts. Develop a transportation system with minimal adverse impact on the environment and aesthetic and cultural features.

Promote Efficiency. Develop a transportation system that uses land and energy resources efficiently and encourages compact, efficient development patterns.

Ensure Public Safety. Develop a transportation system with a high standard of public safety.

Management Guidelines

A. Identification of Potential Transportation Routes. No major, new transportation routes are necessary to support the land use designations made in this plan. The plan does establish guidelines (see Chapter 3) for reserving an adequate corridor for a future pipeline along the existing trans-Alaska oil pipeline right-of-way. More detailed route alignment and feasibility analysis must be completed before the routes can be considered final.

To the extent feasible and prudent, DNR will avoid actions incompatible with the eventual construction of potential transportation routes identified in this plan until final decisions are made on the feasibility of these routes.

B. Access Plans for Land Offerings or Resource Development Projects. Before a land offering or the initiation of a resource development project, DNR will work with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) to identify appropriate locations for access and will also identify responsibilities for design, construction, and maintenance of any proposed transportation facilities. Access plans will be developed in consultation with affected local governments.

C. Joint Use and Consolidation of Surface Access. Joint use and consolidation of surface access routes and facilities will be encouraged wherever it is feasible and prudent to do so. Surface access also should be sited and designed to accommodate future development and avoid unnecessary duplication. The feasibility of using an existing route or facility should be evaluated before the use of a new route or facility is authorized.

D. Protection of Hydrologic Systems. Transportation facilities will, to the extent feasible and prudent, be located to avoid significant effects on the quality or quantity of adjacent surface water resources or detracting from recreational use of the waterway. The following guidelines apply:

1. Stream crossings should be avoided. When a stream must be crossed to construct a road, the crossing should be as close as possible to a 90° angle to the stream. Stream crossings should be made at stable sections of the stream channel.
2. Construction in wetlands, floodplains, and other poorly drained areas should be minimized and existing drainage patterns maintained. Culverts should be installed where necessary to enable free movement of fluids, mineral salts, and nutrients.
3. Bridges and culverts should be large enough to accommodate or positioned to avoid altering the direction and velocity of stream flow or interfering with migrating or spawning activities of fish and wildlife. Bridges and culverts should span the entire nonvegetated stream channel; those intended for permanent use should be large enough to accommodate at least the 25-year peak discharge (where known). Bridges and culverts should provide adequate clearance for boat, pedestrian, horse, and large game passage whenever these uses occur or are anticipated at significant levels.
4. Disturbed stream banks should be recontoured, revegetated, or other protective measures should be taken to prevent soil erosion into adjacent waters.
5. During winter, snow ramps, snow bridges, or other methods should be used to provide access across frozen rivers, lakes, and streams to avoid cutting, eroding, or degrading of banks. These facilities should be removed immediately after final use.
6. All transportation facility construction and maintenance should comply with water quality standards of the State of Alaska.

E. Protection of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Important fish and wildlife habitats such as riparian areas, wildlife movement corridors, important wintering or calving areas, and threatened or endangered species habitat should be avoided in siting transportation routes unless no other feasible and prudent alternatives exist. Location of routes and timing of construction should be determined in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

F. Road Pullouts. Where road corridors contact streams, habitat corridors, or other areas of expected recreational use, sufficient acreage should be retained in public ownership to accommodate public access, safety requirements, and expected recreational use. The size and location of pullouts should be determined in consultation with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, DOT/PF, and ADF&G.

G. Timber Salvage From Rights-of-Way. All timber having high value for commercial or personal use should be salvaged on rights-of-way to be cleared for construction.

H. Off-Road Vehicle Activity. Most off-road vehicle activity does not require a permit on state lands. By statute and regulation, off-road use of vehicles such as snowmachines, jeeps, and small all-terrain vehicles does require a permit on lands designated by DNR as 'special use' lands (depending on the restrictions made for each particular area) and usually requires a permit on state park system lands, fish and game sanctuaries, refuges and critical habitat areas, and for crossing anadromous fish streams. In addition, activity by larger vehicles may require a permit on any state lands.

When permits are issued for off-road vehicle use under 11 AAC 96 or in specially designated areas, they will require that disturbance of soils, vegetation, fish and

wildlife populations, drainage patterns, and water quality be minimized. Operations should be scheduled when adequate snow and ground frost are available to protect the ground surface, or should require the use of low ground pressure vehicles, avoidance of problem areas, or other techniques to protect areas likely to be damaged. (See p. 2-55.) Before permits are issued, the land manager will consult with affected agencies.

In addition, off-road vehicle permits generally should not be given for vehicle use in important wildlife habitats during sensitive periods. If such vehicle activity is essential and no other practical alternative exists, it should be allowed only as an occasional use. This policy will be applied only when significant wildlife populations are likely to be present. ADF&G will be consulted to help identify important habitat areas and sensitive periods that might warrant this restriction.

I. Roadless Areas. Some areas may be designated by the state and future local governments as roadless and managed to exclude construction of new roads to protect particular resources or forms of resource use. Settlement projects may be included in roadless areas. Roadless areas would be designated during transportation planning, the disposal project review process, or other interagency decision process conducted with public participation.

J. Other Design Standards. For other guidelines that affect the design of transportation structures, see DOT/PF's preconstruction guidelines.

K. Siting Utilities. Settlement support facilities, including but not limited to, generation and transmission structures or cables and buried sewage and water lines, will be sited to minimize adverse impacts to other valuable resources or uses.

L. Copper River Highway. A road to link Cordova with the state highway network has been proposed, and portions of two proposed routes run into the Copper River Basin. Three alternative routes have been considered for the road. All start from the existing road that ends near Miles Lake at the Million Dollar Bridge. One route follows the old Copper River and Northwestern Railroad Right-of-Way from the Million Dollar Bridge along the Copper River to Chitina. At Chitina, the highway would join the Edgerton Highway. This railroad right-of-way is shown on the trails map contained in Appendix D of the plan. The right-of-way, managed by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, crosses land owned by the federal government and Native corporations. This route does not cross any state lands (except near Cordova where the road is already built) and, therefore, is not affected by the Copper River Basin Area Plan.

An alternative route follows the railroad right-of-way to the Tiekel River, then follows the Tiekel River and joins the Richardson Highway near Mile Post 45. The land covered by the last few miles of the Tiekel River route are to be selected by the state. If this land becomes state owned, DNR will keep open the option of using this route.

The third alternative route would leave the Copper River and follow the Tasnuna River. It would continue over Marshall Pass and join up with the Richardson Highway south of Thompson Pass. The only state land in this area is near where the road would connect with the Richardson Highway. The area south of Thompson Pass is in the Prince William Sound Planning Area.

M. Other Guidelines Affecting Transportation. Several other guidelines may affect transportation. See the following sections of this chapter:

Agriculture
Fish and wildlife habitat
Forestry
Materials
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
Settlement
Subsurface resources
Public access
Stream corridors and instream flow
Trail management
Wetlands management

LAKESHORE MANAGEMENT

Goals

Recreation. Protect and enhance a variety of lakeshore public recreation opportunities. Protect visual quality of lakeshores.

Habitat. Protect fish and wildlife habitat along lakeshores.

Private Ownership of Land. Provide opportunities for private ownership of lakeshore property.

Water Quality. Maintain water quality.

Management Guidelines

A. Variety of Management Strategies. DNR, through its management of land surrounding different lakes, will provide a full spectrum of public and private recreation and other land use opportunities. Although a great variety of possible lakeshore management strategies exist, DNR will attempt to provide at least the three general types of lake-related land use opportunities (listed below) in any given region. The appropriate lakeshore management strategy will be determined in this plan or when a disposal is proposed near a lake.

1. **Wilderness Lakes** - State-owned land around these lakes will be kept in a natural state. Land around the lakeshore will be retained and managed so that people using the lake generally do not encounter the sights and sounds of human development. Land within 1 mile of the lake will be kept in public ownership. Land sales are not allowed. Leases and sales of surface resources may be allowed closer than 1 mile if, because of topography, the use(s) can occur without adversely affecting the natural character of the lake. The management intent and guidelines in Chapter 3 may give more specific directions for management around certain lakes. The following lakes will be managed as wilderness lakes:

Twin Lakes (MU 6A)
Island Lake (MU 6A)
High Lake (MU 8A)
Kaina Lake (MU 8A)
Southern Tazlina Lake (MU 8B)
St. Anne Lake (MU 8A and 9A)
Tonsina Lake (MU 14)
Old Man Lake (MU 5C)

2. **Recreational Lakes** - State-owned land around these lakes will be managed to retain primarily a natural character. Guidelines B and C (below) will be applied and the majority of the remaining land within at least 200 feet of the entire shoreline will be retained in public ownership. Some areas near the lake that are beyond this buffer may be sold. The management intent and guidelines found in Chapter 3 may give specific guidance for lands around certain lakes. The following lakes will be managed as recreation lakes:

Snowshoe Lake (MU 4A)
Paxson Lake (MU 27)
Meiers Lake (MU 27)
Summit Lake (MU 28A)
Mankomen Lake (MU 29B)
Carlson Lake (MU 32)

3. General Development Lakes - State-owned land around these lakes will be managed to allow a mixture of natural and developed uses. On these lakes, the minimum lakeshore protection standards described in guideline C apply and the standards in B apply if the lake is determined to have significant public value. The following will be managed as general development lakes:

Tolsona Lake (MU 3F)
Moose Lake (MU 3F)
Crosswind Lake (MU 6 and MU 7)

Before land is sold around a lake with significant existing or potential recreational or habitat values, DNR will determine through an interagency process the most appropriate long-term management for the lands that surround the lake.

B. Land to be Retained. At least 50 percent of all public land within 500 feet of the shore of recreation or general development lakes that have significant public values will be retained in public ownership. Retained lands shall include 50 percent of the actual shoreline. These percentages may be increased or decreased case by case or as part of a regional strategy to provide a full spectrum of public and private recreation opportunities if topography, amount of use or other local conditions warrant. A significant portion of the lakefront land retained in public ownership should be suitable for recreational activities. Where feasible, the publicly retained land should include the land adjacent to lake inlets and outlets. (See also Settlement Guideline C4, p. 2-27.)

C. Easements and Setbacks. Where lakefront property is conveyed to private ownership or made available for remote cabin permits, a minimum public access easement of 50 feet will be reserved along the shoreline, and a minimum residential building setback of 100 feet will be required. Water-dependent structures, such as docks or boathouses, are allowed within easements and setbacks.

D. Activities Allowed in Publicly Owned Lakeshore Buffers. Buffers will be managed to retain their natural character. Uses may be allowed in publicly owned lakeshore buffers if the uses are consistent with the purposes for which the buffer was established and do not block public access or adversely affect water quality. For example, if the purpose of the buffer is public recreation, uses such as private docks for adjacent upland owners may need to be consolidated to minimize the impact on public recreation values. If on the other hand, individual docks for upland owners would not adversely affect water quality, then individual docks will be allowed. In the design and review of each disposal adjacent to a publicly owned lakeshore buffer, the Division of Land and Water Management will determine the rights of upland owners within the buffers that do not require specific authorization from DNR.

E. Structures in Fish Habitat. See page 2-9.

F. Water Intake Structures. See page 2-9.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Lakeshore Management. Several other guidelines may affect lakeshore management. See the following sections of this chapter:

Agriculture
Fish and wildlife habitat
Forestry
Materials
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
Settlement
Subsurface resources
Transportation
Public access
Trail management
Wetlands management

PUBLIC ACCESS⁴

Goal

Public Access. Maintain, enhance, or provide adequate access to publicly owned land and resources.

Management Guidelines

A. Retain Access. Improve or maintain public access to areas with significant public resource values by retaining access sites and corridors in public ownership, by reserving rights of access when state land is sold or leased, by acquiring access, or by asserting rights of way through Revise Statute (RS) 2477. (See Appendix D.) No potential RS 2477 trails are recommended for assertion to implement this plan. Generally, section line easements should not be vacated unless alternative, physically useable access can be established or DNR has determined that state lands in the area should be roadless.

B. Management of 17(b) Easements. Generally, DNR will not accept management of 17(b) easements unless it already actively manages a portion of the trail or easement or state management will best protect public access to state lands.

C. Access for Development. When an access route is constructed for resource development, existing public access should be maintained or improved to mineralized areas, recreation, fish, wildlife, and forest resources, agriculture areas, and other public resources.

D. Adequate Access Rights. Where practical and within the limits of available funding, full public rights of access should be provided when roads are constructed by state or local governments. Perpetual exclusive easements should be acquired and recorded when the state acquires access rights across property in other ownerships.

E. Coordination With the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF). Access needs, such as right-of-way widths or road locations, should be coordinated with DOT/PF.

F. Limiting Access. Access to public lands may be curtailed at certain times to protect public safety, allow special uses, and prevent harm to the environment. Examples of conditions that may justify limiting public access are fire management, timber harvest operations, and high soil moisture content when traffic may cause extensive damage to roads and trails.

G. Purchase of Access Sites. Public appropriations may be requested to purchase access sites, easements, or reservations to public use areas and to proposed settlement and agricultural projects.

H. Access Along and Across The Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). On state land, access is allowed across and along TAPS under the following conditions.

⁴ Also see pages 2-37 and 2-50.

1. Crossing on foot or by vehicles of less than 1500 lbs. gross weight (GVW) is allowed without a permit.
2. Crossing by vehicles, pickups, four-wheel-drive vehicles, and all-terrain-vehicles over 1500 lbs GVW requires a permit except at designated vehicle crossings.
3. The public may not travel on the TAPS right-of-way parallel to the pipeline except by permit from DNR.

I. Pipeline Access Roads. DNR should work with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to get Alyeska to open or move barrier gates on certain access roads that cross state land between the Richardson Highway and the pipeline right-of-way. Options such as temporarily opening areas for personal use wood harvest or other short term uses should be explored. Opening roads full-time may create new maintenance costs. This would allow the public more access to state land along service roads.

J. Pipeline Crossings. The department should work with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company to identify options for developing new pipeline crossings to proposed land offerings at Tonsina North (MU 20A) and Tazlina (MU 21A). Future pipelines (such as the Trans-Alaska Gas Line) should provide more places for public crossings to state land for hunting, fishing, recreation, timber harvest, settlement, and other uses or provide a mechanism to improve or develop future public crossings as the need arises.

K. Other Guidelines Affecting Public Access. Several other guidelines may affect public access. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Materials
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

STREAM CORRIDORS AND INSTREAM FLOW

Goals

Recreation. Provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities within publicly owned stream corridors, including both wilderness and developed recreational activities.

Habitat. Protect riparian fish and wildlife habitats.

Private Ownership of Land. Provide opportunities for private ownership of land near streams.

Water Quality. Protect water quality to support domestic uses, fish and wildlife production, and recreational activities.

Forest Products. Where consistent with the management objectives of a stream corridor, provide for the harvest of timber from riparian forests.

Management Guidelines for Stream Corridors

A. Priority of Public Uses in Stream Corridors. As a general rule, DNR will set a higher priority on protecting public use values in stream corridors than providing opportunities for private ownership of land. However, DNR recognizes the strong demand for property along streams and will provide land for private purchase in some stream corridors. Before lands in a stream corridor are disposed of, DNR in consultation with other affected agencies and the public, will assess existing and projected public use needs associated with the stream corridor. Disposals near streams with important recreation value will be designed to protect access to, across, and along the stream for fishing, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities.

B. Retention of Publicly Owned Buffers as a Management Tool in Stream Corridors.

1. When the management intent for land adjacent to a stream is to permit uses such as public roads, fishing, picnicking, hunting, timber harvest, building fires, camping, or other similar active uses, public ownership of stream buffers should be used rather than easements. These buffers will not be opened to remote cabin permits.
2. In state subdivisions or agricultural sales, when it has been determined that stream buffers should be kept in public ownership (see B1 above), the buffers will either be retained in state ownership or dedicated to a local government. If streams in subdivisions or agricultural sales have recreation, public use, or habitat values of regional or statewide importance, buffers should be retained in state ownership.
3. Publicly owned buffers adjacent to a stream may be retained along the full length of the stream or on the segments determined to have high current or future public use and habitat values.

C. Retention of Access Easements as a Management Tool in Stream Corridors.

1. When the primary management intent is to protect the public's right to travel along or across a stream bank rather than to establish a public use area, an easement should be used to protect this right. The public rights reserved in an

easement shall be explicitly defined and normally will include only the right of ingress and egress, inclusive of the right to pause briefly to observe wildlife, take photographs, or rest. On an individual basis, the state may reserve other rights (for example, the right to fish or picnic) as necessary to protect the public interest. The public use rights protected by previously established easements are not affected by this policy.

2. Easements along or across streams should establish the right to travel by foot, dogsled, horseback, and snowmobile (unless the use of snowmobiles is prohibited in a given area). On an individual basis, the right to travel by all-terrain vehicles and wheeled vehicles may be reserved, where doing so is in the public interest. Easements should be reserved for roads or railroads only if they are likely to be built in the foreseeable future.
3. Easements and publicly owned buffers may be used in combination on a stream to provide opportunities for private ownership near the stream and still protect public use, access to public waters, or habitat values on other portions of the stream. Therefore, although easements should not be used where significant public use will be encouraged, they may be used on portions of a stream with important public recreation and habitat values when most portions of the stream are retained for public use.

D. Establishing Widths of Publicly Owned Buffers, Easements, and Building Setbacks in Stream Corridors.

1. Widths of easements, setbacks, and publicly owned buffers along streams will vary according to the management intent for the stream and adjacent uplands. In addition, the buffer, easement, or setback width for any given stream may vary along the stream course depending on topography, vegetation, and land ownership. Establishing buffer, easement, or setback widths for particular streams will be based, at a minimum, on specific objectives: recreational activities to be accommodated, habitat protection and management, noise abatement, visual quality, water quality, prevention of river bank erosion (in which case the buffer widths should be increased to compensate), and land disposal.
2. Although buffer and easement widths may vary among streams, a basic level of consistency is needed to avoid confusion about the widths of public use and access areas along the state's many streams; also, fieldwork and site analysis to establish separate widths for each stream corridor would be prohibitively expensive. The following guidelines are intended to establish a reasonable degree of consistency in buffer, easement, and setback widths.
 - When it is determined that a publicly owned buffer is appropriate, a standard minimum buffer width of 200 feet should generally be established landward from the ordinary high water mark on each bank. This width may be reduced to a minimum of 100 feet on each bank in individual cases when consistent with the management objectives of the stream corridor.
 - As a general standard, publicly owned buffers of at least 1/4 mile landward from the ordinary high water mark on each bank should be retained on streams recommended as State Recreation Rivers. Exceptions to this policy may be made where land ownership, topography, or the nature of anticipated public uses in a stream corridor warrant.

- When it is determined that a public access easement will be reserved along a stream, a minimum easement of 50 feet will be reserved landward from the ordinary high water mark on each bank.
- Where feasible and prudent, there should be setbacks between commercial and industrial uses, transportation facilities and pipelines, and adjacent water bodies unless these uses are water dependent. The width of this setback may vary depending on the type and size of the use, but will be adequate to maintain public access to riparian areas and protect water quality in accordance with water quality standards established by the Department of Environmental Conservation. For nonwater-dependent uses allowed adjacent to designated anadromous fish waters, this setback, to the extent feasible and prudent, will be a minimum of 100 feet landward of the ordinary high water mark.
- Where it is not feasible and prudent to maintain a setback adjacent to fish habitat, public water supplies, or recreational waters, other measures will be implemented to meet the intent of this guideline.
- Where land is sold near a stream, a minimum residential building setback of 100 feet will be established landward from the ordinary high water mark on each bank.

E. Uses Allowed in Easements, Setbacks and Publicly Owned Stream Buffers.

Water-dependent structures, such as docks and boathouses, are allowed within easements, setbacks and publicly owned buffers. Other uses such as commercial and industrial uses, transportation facilities, pipelines, or uses associated with residential areas may be allowed adjacent to water bodies if these uses are consistent with the management intent for the easement, setback or publicly owned buffer.

F. Alteration of the Hydrologic System. To the extent feasible, channelization, diversion, or damming that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and have a significant adverse impact on important riverine habitat will be avoided.

G. Soil Erosion. Soil erosion will be minimized by restricting the removal of vegetation adjacent to streams and by stabilizing disturbed soil as soon as possible.

H. Structures in Fish Habitat. See page 2-9.

I. Water Intake Structures. See page 2-9.

Management Guidelines for Instream Flow

A. Streams and Uses to Consider. Streams and other waterbodies should be considered for instream flow reservations when there is an identified threat to the water supply needed to support significant public uses, when there is significant public use, or when the resource values of the stream are exceptional. Additional streams and other waterbodies may be identified for consideration.

Under DNR's statutes, reservation of instream flow is possible for four types of uses:

1. Protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation. Instream flow reservations to protect habitat may be made for streams that have significant anadromous or resident fish populations; flow into wetlands that

support significant waterfowl, fur bearer or other wildlife populations; or provide the water supply needed for other habitat types that support significant wildlife populations.

2. Recreation and park uses.
3. Navigation and transportation uses.
4. Sanitary and water quality uses.

Other uses of water, such as hydropower which is a diversion of water, are covered by the water rights statutes and regulations.

B. Priorities. Competition for use of surface water resources has not been identified as a significant issue in the plan. Groundwater supplies most of the water used in the Copper River Basin. Major streams are largely glacier fed and too silty for most uses. The streams identified as a high priorities for instream flow study and possible reservation are the Gulkana River and Willow Creek (near Kenny Lake). The Gulkana River has high public values particularly for habitat and recreation and the potential for conflicts with these values from resource developments. Willow Creek flows through an area with some existing agricultural land and additional agriculture development is possible. Further study or major new developments requiring substantial water use may result in the need to study additional streams.

C. Process for Determining Reservations. The process for determining instream flow reservations should include the following steps for each stream or other waterbody.

1. Identify the management objectives.
2. Estimate the quantity of water seasonally available by direct measurement (hydrograph), predictive methods (regional hydrographic models), or other appropriate methods.
3. Determine the quantities of water already appropriated.
4. In consultation with appropriate agencies, use site-specific studies or other information to determine the instream flow requirements for the resources and uses to be protected. For habitat resources this will require cooperative work and consultation with the Department of Fish and Game to identify necessary conditions for requiring, staging, reproduction, spawning, over wintering, and migration of valuable fish and wildlife resources.

D. Other Guidelines Affecting Stream Corridors. Several other guidelines may affect stream corridors. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Materials
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Public access
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

TRAIL MANAGEMENT

Goals

Public Use Opportunities. Ensure continued opportunities for public use of important recreation, public access, and historic trails of regional and statewide significance.

Local Trails. Assist in establishing local trail systems that provide access to community recreation areas.

Trail Corridors. Protect or establish trail corridors to meet projected future use requirements and protect current use.

Management Guidelines

A. Special Trails. These are trails that require unusual widths or management practices because of historical significance or unique values. Management guidelines should be developed for such trails on an individual basis. As a general policy special trails will be protected by publicly owned buffers that will generally be wider than the 100-foot minimum trail buffer width established for trails of regional or statewide significance in C below.

B. Neighborhood and Community Trails. Local trails that are not of regional or statewide significance will be identified and protected through management plans or disposal design under guidelines recommended in DNR's subdivision design manual. Once identified, trails will be recorded on the state's land record system and reserved through issuance of a trail permit. The following criteria should be used to determine whether a local trail should be protected by easement or public ownership:

1. If the local trail serves as a neighborhood collector trail that connects to a public open space system or regional or statewide trail, it will be kept in public ownership.
2. If the trail will be used almost entirely by neighborhood residents for their own use, it should be kept in state ownership or dedicated to the local government.
3. If the objective is to provide local pedestrian access and does not have the characteristics of criterion 1 or 2 (above) an easement may be used. This would typically occur when the purpose is to establish access between two lots to improve pedestrian circulation within a subdivision where a greenbelt and neighborhood trail system does not provide adequate access or where it is impractical to establish such an integrated trail system.
4. In cases of land offerings other than subdivisions (for example, land opened to homesteading) a publicly owned buffer or an easement will be used to protect designated trails. If a trail has the characteristics described in criterion 1 or 2 (above), it will be retained in public ownership; if it has the characteristics described in criterion 3, an easement will be reserved.

C. Standard Trails of Regional or Statewide Significance. This category includes the majority of trails on state land that are identified in the area plan. These trails are generally travelled by foot, dogsled, horse and sometimes vehicle access for a variety of purposes. Most standard trails have a history of public use and can

be expected to see increased use as the state's population increases. The guidelines which follow are intended to insure consistent management practices on such trails management decisions on site specific conditions.

D. Identification of Trails. Before public lands are leased or disposed of, trails that merit consideration for protection by one of the methods described in A through C (above) should be identified. The Division of Land and Water Management will be the lead agency for identification of trails and will consult with the other divisions of DNR, DOT/PF, ADF&G, affected private land owners, and local government when identifying trails. In addition, any agency, organization, or individual may identify public trails to be considered for protection.

E. Trail Buffer Width. Trails of regional or statewide significance on state land shall be protected by a publicly owned buffer that has a minimum width of 100 feet (50 feet each side of center line). This buffer should be sized to protect the quality of the experience of the user and to minimize negative effects such as noise or dust from adjacent land uses. Buffer widths may be increased to minimize land use and ownership conflicts, to protect the privacy of adjacent landowners, to separate motorized from nonmotorized uses, to allow future siting of public facilities, to allow flexibility for rerouting, or to adopt a trail to specific public uses or aesthetic or environmental concerns. Buffer widths may vary along the length of a trail because of the above considerations. The width of a buffer on any portion of a trail should also be based on the management intent for adjacent public land as expressed through applicable land use plans. However, the minimum width of the buffer should be 100 feet. Trail buffers should be located and designed in consultation with affected divisions of DNR, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF), affected private land owners, and local trail committees. Activity areas of 10 to 40 acres may be identified along trails for other uses such as camping or rest areas.

F. Land Use in Publicly Owned Buffers. Trail buffers generally will be managed to maintain the natural vegetation within the buffer. Timber sales, materials sales, and permits and leases for activities that impact the natural vegetation of the buffer will, to the extent feasible and prudent, be managed so as to not adversely affect trail use or the aesthetic character of the trail. This guideline does not preclude trail crossings or rerouting of trails as described below.

G. Rerouting Trails. Rerouting of trails may be permitted to minimize land use conflicts or to facilitate use of a trail if alternate routes provide opportunities similar to the original. If trails are rerouted, provision should be made for construction of new trail segments if warranted by type of use. Rerouting trails should be done in consultation with affected divisions of DNR, DOT/PF, and ADF&G, private land owners and local trail committees. Historic trails which follow well-established routes should not be rerouted unless necessary to maintain trail use.

H. Trail Crossings. When it is necessary for powerlines, pipelines or roads to cross trail buffers, crossings should be at a 90° angle to the buffer when feasible. Vegetative screening should be preserved at trail crossings.

I. Other Guidelines Affecting Trail Management. Several other guidelines may affect trail management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat

Forestry
Materials
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
Settlement
Subsurface resources
Transportation
Lakeshore management
Public access
Stream corridors and instream flow
Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Uses of most trails in the Copper River Basin will not be restricted by this plan. Overland access regulated by permit will be restricted in trumpeter swan nesting habitat from May until September (most trails in this area are impassable during this season). Specific trail recommendations are made for these trails:

- Crosswind Lake Trail (MU 3D)
- Mud Lake Trail (MU 3F)
- Ewan Lake Trail (MU 6B)
- Tazlina River Trail (MU 8B)
- Valdez to Copper Center Trail around Klutina Lake (MU 12)
- Tonsina Lake Trail (MU 14)
- Squaw Creek Trail to Tonsina Lake (MU 16A)
- Gulkana River trail easements between Gulkana and Sourdough (MU 27)
- Swede Lake Trail (MU 28B)
- Chistochina River Trails (MU 29)
- Slana River Access (MU 32)
- O'Brien Creek near Chitina (MU 33)

In addition, the trailheads of these important 17(b) easements should be marked:

- Hudson Lake Trail (off Klutina River Trail)
- Copper River Access Trail, north of Gulkana airport between the Richardson Highway and Copper River
- Klawasi Trail, East of Copper Center
- Klutina River Trail
- Bernard Creek Trail
- Swan Lake Trail

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

Goal

Protect Wetland Values. Protect the hydrologic, habitat, and recreational values of important public wetlands. Land management practices will be directed to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on the following important functions of wetlands.

- Wetlands filter nutrients and sediment from upland runoff.
- Wetlands stabilize water supplies by storing excessive water during flooding and by recharging groundwater during dry periods.
- Wetlands provide important feeding, rearing, nesting, and breeding grounds for many species; related recreational use and aesthetic values also are important.

Management Guidelines

A. Definition of Wetlands. For purposes of inventory and management of freshwater wetlands, DNR will use the definition adopted by the State of Alaska under the regulations of the Coastal Management Program [6 AAC 80.900(19)]:

Freshwater wetlands means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation that is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface water not exceeding 3 meters in depth.

For purposes of these management guidelines, wetlands are further divided into three classes: Class I, wetlands larger than 100 acres and all wetlands with a locatable stream outlet (the stream shall be considered part of the wetland); Class II, wetlands between 40 and 100 acres with no outlet; and Class III, wetlands less than 40 acres with no outlet.

Activities in wetlands may also be subject to provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements related to the Clean Water Act. Compliance with these guidelines in this plan does not replace the need to comply with federal requirements.

B. Retention of Land Adjacent to Wetlands

1. Class I and II wetlands and surrounding lands will remain in public ownership unless DNR determines--after research and analysis and consultation with affected agencies--that they do not have sufficiently high water quality, water supply, habitat, or recreation values to merit public ownership. This guideline applies to the sale of agriculture rights and fee simple disposal. Restrictive use covenants and public access easements, rather than public ownership, may be used to protect Class I and II wetlands and associated buffers under conditions specified in C below.

See page 2-48 for types of structures allowed in publicly owned buffers, easements, and covenants.

⁵For more information, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska.

Class I wetland buffers that are to be retained in public ownership will include, at a minimum, a 100-foot strip adjacent to the wetland unless the conditions in B3 below are met.

Class II wetland buffers that are to be retained in public ownership will include, at a minimum, a 60-foot strip adjacent to the wetland unless the conditions in B3 below are met.

2. Class III wetlands and surrounding lands will be evaluated on an individual basis through the land disposal process or a land management plan to determine whether public retention or other measures are necessary to protect their values. Criteria used in this evaluation will include the wetland's importance to water quality, water supply, habitat, or recreation values, as well as the costs of retaining the wetland.
3. Wetland buffers will be increased from the standards set in item 1 (above) if necessary because of the potential for adverse impacts on wetlands from development on adjacent lands. If, for instance, surrounding lands are steep and have high erosion potential or the proposed use poses a high risk to water quality or other values, buffer widths will be increased accordingly. When steep conditions exist, general guidelines should be used for increasing buffer width: if a 10 to 40 percent slope exists, the buffer width should increase 25 percent; if the slope exceeds 40 percent, the buffer width should increase 50 percent.

Wetland buffers may be decreased if land adjacent to the wetland is stable and development or use of it does not pose a risk to water quality or other values. A minimum buffer width of 100 feet will apply to agricultural land disposals.

C. Restrictive Use Covenants and Public Access Easements. Restrictive use covenants and public access easements may be used rather than public ownership under the following conditions.

1. Where the configuration of the wetland is such that surveying the meandering boundary of the wetland would be excessively expensive. In this case an aliquot-part (rectangular) survey rather than a meander survey may be used along the edge of the wetland. This may result in small portions of wetlands being conveyed to private ownership. Where justified by the value of the wetland, restrictive use covenants and public access easements shall be applied to ensure that those portions of wetlands and associated buffers conveyed to private ownership remain in a natural state and that public access and use are maintained.
2. Where an entire wetland is included within a parcel of land to be sold for private use. In this case, the wetland and associated buffer may be conveyed to private ownership. Where justified by the value of the wetland, restrictive use covenants should be used to ensure that the wetland and associated buffer remain in a natural state. If there is a stream outlet from such a wetland, public access easements shall be reserved adjacent to the outlet and the wetland.

D. Defining Wetland and Wetland Buffer Boundaries. Boundaries should be defined through field inspection, interpretation of aerial photographs, or both. Field inspection is preferred, but will not always be possible because of cost. Where wetlands are particularly valuable and field inspection is not possible, boundaries should be sufficiently generous to allow for errors in interpretation. This will often be the case where aliquot parts are used to define wetlands rather than meander surveys.

Where covenants are used to protect wetlands conveyed to private ownership, boundaries of where the covenants apply may be defined by aliquot parts, or otherwise described so the landowner can clearly define where the covenant applies.

E. Permits for Dredge and Fill in State-Owned Wetlands. Permits that authorize dredging and filling in wetlands, including permits for gravel and peat extraction and the construction of roads and pads, will be granted unless it is determined that the proposed activity will cause significant adverse impacts to important fish and wildlife habitat or important ecological processes or that no feasible and prudent alternative exists. Where it is not feasible and prudent to avoid such activities, other mitigative measures will be considered to meet the intent of this guideline.

F. Operation of Heavy Equipment in Wetlands. Permits issued for activities that require the use of heavy equipment in wetlands that have important hydrologic, recreation or habitat values will, to the extent feasible and prudent, require that damage to wetlands and wetland vegetation be avoided. Only winter access should be used in or across wetlands whenever feasible. DNR will consult with other affected agencies prior to issuing such permits.

G. Approval of Other Activities in State-Owned Wetlands and Buffers. Activities such as establishing trails or issuing leases for commercial or noncommercial uses shall be considered on an individual basis. Such activities will be allowed if they can occur without significant damage to the water, habitat, or recreation values of the wetland.

H. Other Guidelines Affecting Wetlands Management. Several other guidelines may affect wetlands management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Materials
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Subsurface resources
- Transportation
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management

Chapter 3



Land Management Policies for each Management Unit

CHAPTER 3

Land Management Policies for each Management Unit

Introduction

In this chapter, land management policy is presented for specific sites within the planning area. The area is divided into management units, that is, an area that is generally homogeneous with respect to resources, topography, and land ownership.

The land management information presented for each management unit is described below:

- A. **Statement of Management Intent** - A statement of management intent is provided for each unit. The statement defines near and long-term management objectives for the management unit and the methods to achieve these objectives.
- B. **Management Guidelines** - Management guidelines that apply to specific management units are listed. The area-wide management guidelines in Chapter 2 that will most likely apply to each unit also are identified.
- C. **Resource Information Summary** - A chart is provided that summarizes resource values in each unit. If no value has been identified for a particular resource within a unit, the resource is not included in the summary.
- D. **Land Use Designation Summary** - Charts are included that list primary and secondary surface land use designations, prohibited uses, subsurface resource management policy and land ownership. These land use designations provide a quick picture of planned uses within a unit, but they must be used with the statement of management intent for the complete explanation of management policy.
- E. **Maps of Land Ownership and Management Unit and Subunit Boundaries** - A map of each management unit and the subunits that are within it is provided.

Surface and Subsurface Land Use Designations

The plan presents separate land use designations for surface and subsurface resources; it also designates the primary and secondary surface land uses for which an area is to be managed. A primary surface use is one that is of major importance in a management unit or subunit. The unit will be managed to encourage this use and its conservation or development. A secondary surface use is permitted within a management unit or subunit when its occurrence will not adversely affect achieving the objectives for the primary uses. A secondary use may be the main use for a limited area of the management unit. For example, within a management unit where the primary uses are forestry and public recreation, a small area may be identified for land disposal and private recreational development. The plan also identifies prohibited surface uses within each unit. These are uses that will not be permitted anywhere in the unit without a plan amendment. In an area identified as critical

habitat, for example, construction of cabins may be prohibited. Uses that are not specifically prohibited may be permitted on an individual basis if the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determines that the proposed uses are consistent with the statement of management intent for the unit in question and applicable management guidelines.

Resource designations such as 'minerals' or 'oil and gas' generally are not applied as primary or secondary surface land use designations. The problems in locating and measuring subsurface resources make it difficult and potentially misleading to apply primary and secondary designations in the same way they can be applied to surface resources like timber. A surface designation for primary use minerals is made in certain cases where intensive subsurface resource exploration or development exists. Most state land in the Copper River Basin is open to location and available for leasing. Where a management unit is open to mineral location and has a primary surface designation such as wildlife habitat, this surface designation will not be construed to prevent mineral development.

Resource Management Areas

In some remote areas, lands are designated for resource management rather than a more specific designation such as settlement or forestry. The resource management designation means that the land will be retained in public ownership until the plan is revised (approximately every years) or until new roads, new information, or development proposals make it necessary to review the resource management designation. At that time, a permanent classification such as agriculture or forestry can be assigned. Until the resource management designation is reviewed, the land will be managed for existing public uses. Changes in the resource management designation are amendments to the plan and must be reviewed by an interagency planning team and the public.

There are two types of resource management areas. 'Resource Management - High' applies to lands that could support a variety of uses or to lands where fish and wildlife values are unknown. Existing information is inadequate to determine the best long range use of these lands. In addition, the long distance from road access makes it unlikely that the lands will be developed in the near term. The second category is 'Resource Management - Low.' This designation applies to remote lands where no highly valuable resources have been identified. Mountainous areas and glaciers are the types of lands that might be placed in the 'Resource Management - Low' category.

Management Guidelines

Most public lands will be managed for multiple use. For this reason, the plan establishes management guidelines that will allow various uses to occur without serious conflicts. Management guidelines can direct the timing, amount, or specific location of different activities to make the permitted uses compatible. For example, timber harvests along anadromous streams will be designed to protect habitat values in the stream corridors.

Areas Proposed for Legislative Designations

A few areas in this plan are recommended for legislative designation for recreation. The areas recommended for these special designations are lands and waters with outstanding public values that should remain in public ownership permanently. Legislative designations must be established by the Alaska Legislature. For more information on specific proposals for special designations see page 4-11.

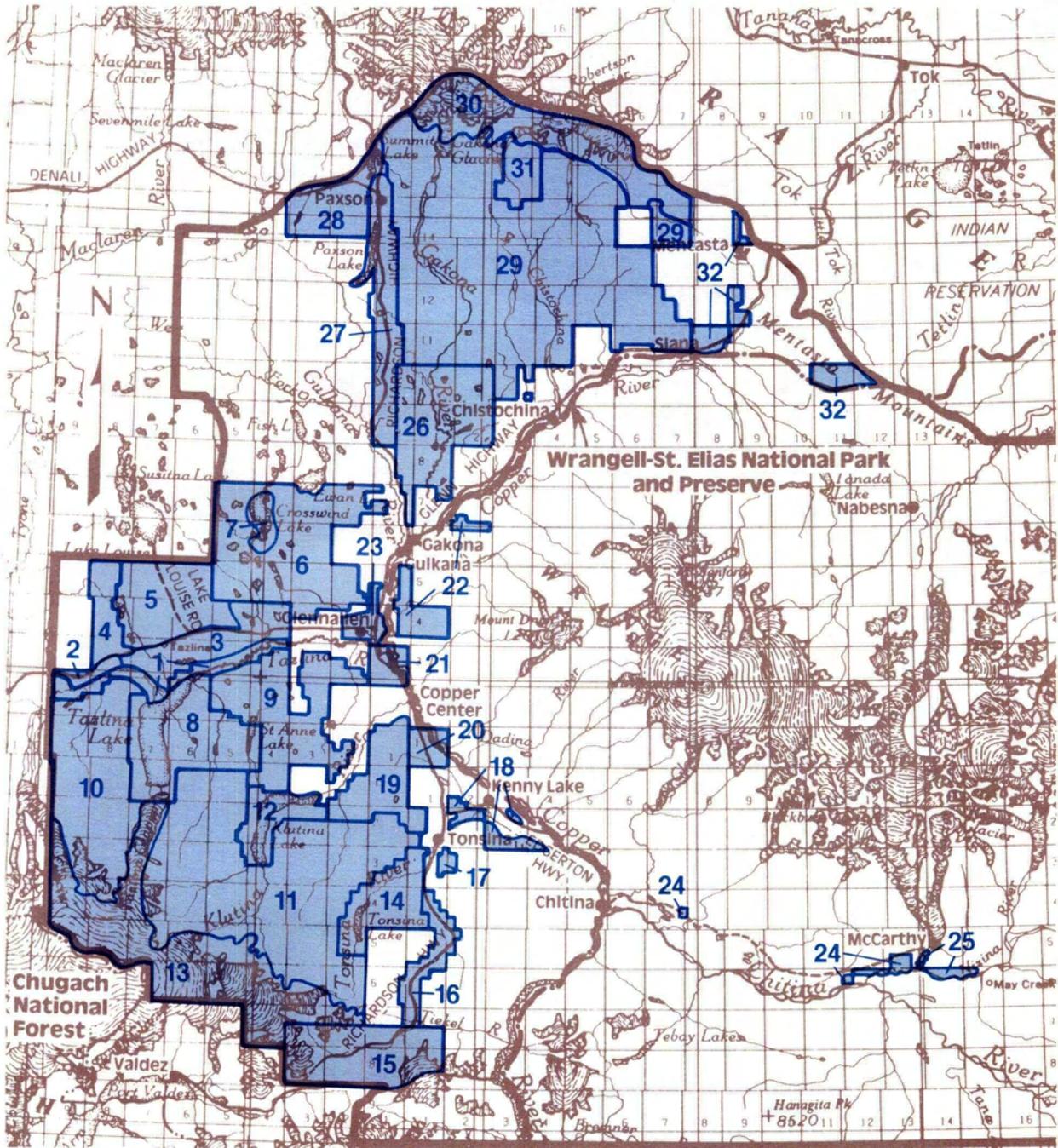
Flexibility of the Plan

Almost all state land addressed by this plan will be managed for multiple use. Exceptions are lands that will be offered for private ownership and recreation sites that are less than 640 acres. The land use designations shown on the maps and charts in this chapter are intended to be flexible. Uses not shown may be permitted on an individual basis if DNR determines they are consistent with the statement of management intent for the management unit in question and consistent with applicable management guidelines. Boundaries of land use designations shown on the following maps may be modified through on-the-ground implementation activities such as site planning or disposal, as long as modifications adhere to the intent of the plan. In addition, through implementation of the plan, uses not originally designated may be permitted if they are consistent with the management intent for a particular management unit. This plan should not be construed to preclude site decisions that comply with the management intent and guidelines. This plan will not provide direct answers to many of the site-specific issues frequently encountered by state land managers. A plan that deals with a region the size of the Copper River Basin cannot provide a predetermined answer to all questions. The plan can, however, clarify the general management objectives for the area and thereby provide the basis for a more informed decision.

Definitions

Definitions of terms used frequently in this chapter are given in Appendix B.

MANAGEMENT UNIT INDEX



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| 2. North of Nelchina River - p.13 | 19. Squirrel Creek/Mount DuRelle - p.129 |
| 3. North of Tazlina River - p.19 | 20. Willow Creek - p.135 |
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| 7. Crosswind Lake - p.51 | 24. Long Lake/Fireweed Mt. - p.159 |
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| 13. Chugach Glaciers - p.89 | 30. Alaska Range - p. 201 |
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(not mapped) |
| 17. Tonsina Plateau - p.115 | |

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1: Nelchina River - Tazlina River

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land along the Little Nelchina, Nelchina, and Tazlina rivers and the north shore of Tazlina Lake. Tazlina River is navigable from Tazlina Lake to the Copper River; therefore, the state owns the entire watercourse including the part that runs through Native lands. The land is now used for hunting and river oriented recreation. A few remote parcel entries are on the south side of the Nelchina River.

The rivers from the Glenn Highway bridge over the Little Nelchina River to the Richardson Highway bridge over the Tazlina River provide an excellent float trip that is expected to receive increased use in the future. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) maintains a small recreation site north of the old bridge over the Little Nelchina River that serves as the starting point for many river trips. It is also possible to float down Mendeltna Creek into Tazlina Lake (see subunit 3B).

Areas north of the Nelchina River are accessible overland from the Glenn Highway. No access problems were identified in this area.

Management Intent

This land will be retained in state ownership for public recreation use and to maintain fish and wildlife habitat. Forestry also is designated as a primary use of land along the Nelchina and Tazlina Rivers. Forestry activity will be conducted so as to protect or enhance recreation values. No land offerings are allowed. The Alaska Legislature should consider designation of the river corridors and northern shore of the lake as a recreation river. Such a designation would ensure long term retention of the land in the corridor in public ownership. The corridor should generally be 200-foot wide on both sides of the river and along the lake. In canyon areas, the corridor width should be defined as the top of the canyon bluff (rather than 200 feet). The DPOR will establish and coordinate a committee that will include its own representatives and those from Division of Forestry, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Fish and Game, and local residents. The committee will define the boundaries of the recreation river for submission to the Legislature. Legislative designation would also provide DNR with stronger authority to prevent incompatible uses in the corridor, protect archaeological resources, and more likely provide funding to develop access, campgrounds, or public use cabins. A site for a pullout at the Tazlina River bridge on the Richardson Highway should be acquired and included in the recreation river corridor.

In addition to the management intent for the entire unit, the following applies to specific subunits:

Subunit 1B. This is the existing state recreation site at Little Nelchina River that includes a small campground and provides access to the river. The site should be expanded (through an Interagency Land Management Agreement) to include areas along the old road at the entrance to the site.

Subunit 1C. The north shore of Tazlina Lake and the mouth of Kaina Creek are the sites of numerous archaeological and historic resources. Increased recreation activity here could damage these resources or lead to loss of artifacts. As part of the recreation river management, campgrounds or public use cabins should be developed to lure campers away from these archaeological sites. One potential camping area or

site for a public use cabin is where the Tazlina River flows out of Tazlina Lake in the east half of Section 25, T. 3 N., R. 6 W. An archaeological review will be conducted before any timber sales or land leases occur in this subunit. Land leases and permits are not allowed unless they are located so as to cause no impact on archaeological resources. The subunit is closed to new mineral entry to protect the known and potential archaeological resources.

Management Guidelines

River Crossings. River crossings are allowed to provide access to resources on state land and will be consolidated to the maximum extent feasible. Necessary road crossings of the river, to the extent feasible and prudent, will be located and designed to minimize the impact on views, habitat, and recreational values.

Facilities. The siting of facilities within 1/2 mile of the ordinary high water mark of the Nelchina and Tazlina Rivers will be avoided to the extent feasible and prudent, unless the facility is consistent with the purposes for which the recreation river corridor was established or if it cannot be seen from the river.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Lakeshore management
- Stream corridors and instream flow

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 1 - Nelchina River/Tazlina River
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
1A	Mostly state	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Settlement Trapping cabins Grazing in river corridor	Recommended recreation river - river with a 200 foot corridor on each side
1B	State	Public recreation	Wildlife habitat	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Settlement Trapping cabins Grazing	Little Nelchina State Recreation site (existing)
1C	State, State-Native selections	Heritage resources Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Grazing	Recommended recreation river - river with a 200 foot corridor from lake shore

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329420

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 1 - Nelchina River/Tazlina River

(Page 2 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
1D	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat Forestry	Heritage resources	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Recommended recreation river - 200 foot corridor on each side or to bluff top

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 1 - Nelchina River - Tazlina River

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	1A	1B	1C	1D
Fish	Arctic Grayling	N/A	salmon-s/r steelhead-s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s
Forestry	high and moderate conif.	moderate conif.	high - moderate conif.	high to moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	many high value cultural sites along shoreline	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside known mineral terranes	outside known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low		low	unknown
Recreation	high value for Nelchina River floating	existing Little Nelchina rec. site, put-in for river trips	high on Tazlina Lake and along Nelchina-Tazlina floating route	high value - Tazlina River; floating, fishing
Sand and Gravel	existing sites along Glenn Hwy.	none		
Settlement Suitability	low & moderate (flood hazard)	unsuitable	low & moderate	moderate (flood hazard)
Transportation	Nelchina River is navigable	On Glenn Highway	Tazlina Lake	Tazlina River is navigable; gorge limits access
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - moose	B-1 habitat	B-1 habitat	B-1 & B-2 habitats

Important trails:

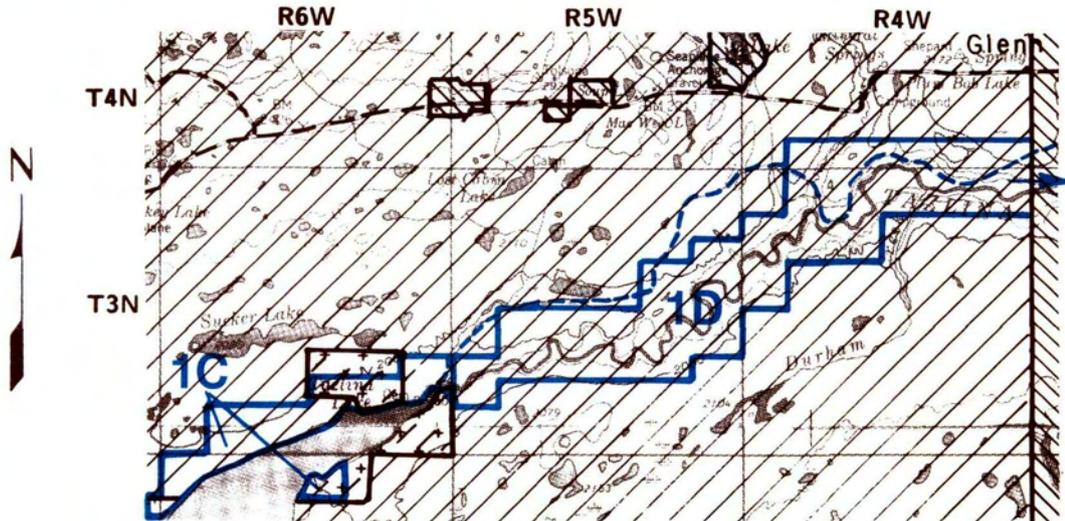
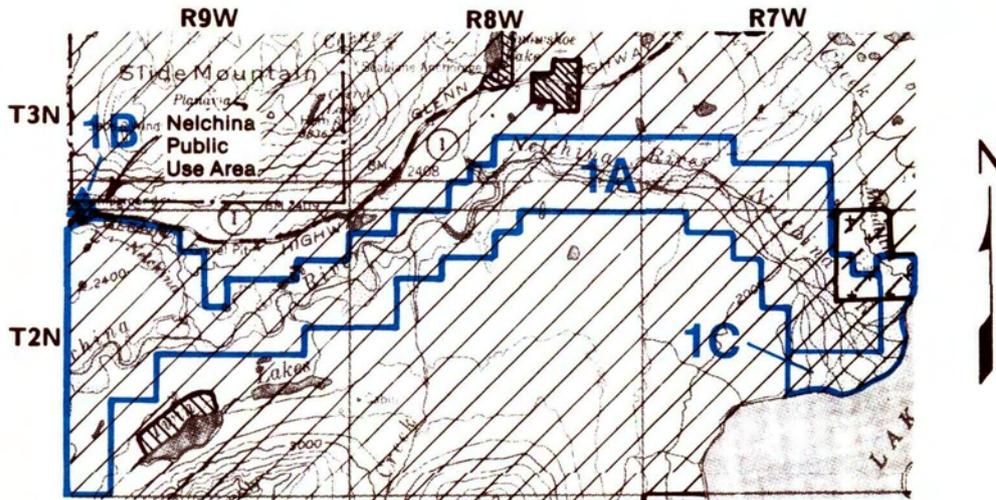
Subunit 1D: Trail along Tazlina River to Tazlina Lake.

Notes: Salt Springs and Mud Volcano are located in subunit 3E north of Glenn Highway

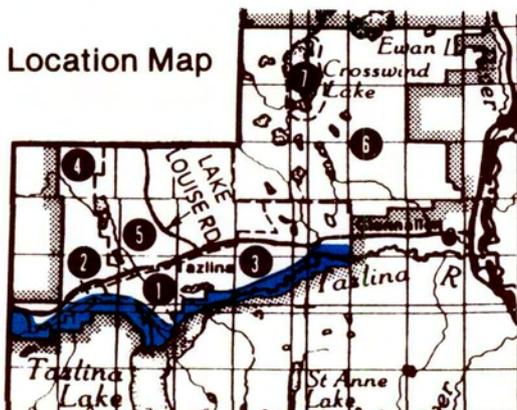
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1

Nelchina River/Tazlina River



Unit 1d (Tazlina River) extends to the Copper River



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Valdez
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2: North of Nelchina River

Background

This management unit includes land along the Glenn Highway north of the Nelchina River and south of Slide Mountain. Most of the unit is state owned although several privately owned parcels are located along the Glenn Highway. There are several homes along the highway including a small community near the Little Nelchina Lodge. To the north is the Nelchina Public Use Area.

Management Intent

The plan proposes that 500 acres of land be offered for private ownership. Land not transferred into private ownership should be managed for multiple use, particularly forestry and wildlife habitat. The area remains open to mineral entry, although land offerings would be closed to mineral location before disposal. The land offering should ensure that access is retained to Slide Mountain, which contains numerous paleontological artifacts and fossils. Land within 1/4 mile of the Nelchina River should be retained in public ownership to protect the integrity of the river corridor.

Management Guidelines

Settlement Area. The DNR Area Forester will work with the Division of Land and Water Management (DLWM) to identify commercial forest lands and avoid disposal of these stands to the extent possible. Access routes to areas south of the Nelchina River also should be reserved for future use.

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits and areas identified on the management unit map as having high potential for sand and gravel will be retained in public ownership.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 2 - North of Nelchina River

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
2	State, some private	Settlement Forestry	Wildlife habitat Sand and gravel	Open, except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Estimated net land offerings - 500 acres

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 2 - North of Nelchina River

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	2
Fish	none documented
Forestry	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low
Recreation	low
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential areas
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate; very accessible
Transportation	along Glenn Highway
Wildlife	B-1 habitat

Settlement Area: Isolated small tracts of land in this unit have potential for low density settlement.

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3: North of Tazlina River

Background

This management unit includes state land between the Glenn Highway and Tazlina Lake and Tazlina River and state land north of the Glenn Highway near Tolsona Lake and Tolsona Creek. Most of the unit is state owned, except for scattered parcels of private land along the Glenn Highway. Most of the state land in this unit is quite boggy. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating parts of subunits 3C, 3E, and 3F as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) Radar System.

Management Intent

Most state land in this unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use, with emphasis on forestry and wildlife habitat. Isolated parcels (approximately 250 acres) of land along the highway (subunit 3D) may be offered for settlement. Land within this management unit may be used for the USAF Backscatter radar system. Most of the unit will remain open to mineral entry, except for Tolsona Creek and Mendeltna Creek which will be closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning areas, resident fish populations, water quality, and recreation resources. The existing Tolsona Creek recreation site (subunit 3E) is also closed to mineral location. Tolsona and Moose Lakes will be managed as general development lakes (see p. 2-42).

In addition to the overall management intent described above, the following applies to specific subunits:

Subunit 3B. This subunit, which includes the Mendeltna Creek corridor, should be retained in public ownership and managed to protect salmon populations, recreation values, and any archaeological resources. The stream offers good fishing and floating, although log jams and sweepers are potential hazards. An archaeological review should be conducted before any timber sales in this subunit.

Subunit 3F. The salt springs and mud volcano north of the Glenn Highway should be retained and managed for scientific values. This is the most accessible mud volcano in the Copper River Basin and can be reached easily from a hiking trail located at mile 178 of the Glenn Highway. The trailhead should be marked by DNR.

Management Guidelines

Trails. The Resource Information Summary lists several trails, all of which should be retained for public use if adjacent lands are offered for sale. The trailheads should also be marked, especially the ones adjacent to or near private property to prevent trespass problems.

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits and areas identified on the management units map as having high potential for material extraction will be retained in public ownership.

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Tolsona and Mendeltna Creeks, and the creeks themselves will be closed to mineral location to protect valuable fisheries and recreation resources. Mendeltna Creek also has potential archaeological resources.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 3 - North of Tazlina River
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
3A	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Sand and gravel	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	
3B	State	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Heritage resources	Uplands open to mineral entry, Mendeltna Creek closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Includes Mendeltna Creek below Glenn Highway
3C	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Public recreation	Open to mineral entry, except Tolsona Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
3D	State, some private	Settlement	Forestry Sand and gravel Wildlife habitat	Open, except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Estimated net land offerings - 250 acres

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329430

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 3 - North of Tazlina River
(Page 2 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
3E	State	Recreation site	Wildlife habitat	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Tolsona Creek recreation site (existing)
3F	State	Geothermal Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Tolsona mud volcanoes

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329431

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 3 - North of Tazlina River (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	3A	3B	3C	3D
Fish	none docum.	salmon - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon s/r
Forestry	moderate conif.	high and moderate conif.	high and moderate conif.	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	none ident.	Sites - along Mendeltna Creek	none ident.	none ident.
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces	outside of known mineral terraces	outside of known mineral terraces	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	low	high; floating and fishing	moderate to small lakes; high - Tolsona, Moose Lakes	low
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	existing sites	existing sites
Settlement Suitability	low	unsuitable	low	low
Transportation	Glenn Hwy.	Glenn Hwy.	Glenn Hwy.; Smoky Lakes & Trapper's Den airstrips	Glenn Hwy.
Wildlife	B-1 habitat	B-1 habitat	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose; B-1 habitat	A-2 habitat caribou, moose

Important Trails: (Note: Some trails cross private land, inquire before using.)

Subunit 3C: Trail from Tolsona Lake on Glenn Hwy. north to Crosswind Lake (primary winter access to lake)

Trail from Glenn Hwy. near Bob Lake north to Twin Lakes

Trail from Glenn Hwy. west of Mud Lake to Crosswind Lake

Trail from Glenn Hwy., 4 mi east of Atlasta House, south to Tazlina River

Trail paralleling Tazlina River on the north

Trail from Trapper's Den on Glenn Hwy. south to Sucker Lake

Trail from Glenn Hwy., about 1 mile east of Mendeltna Lodge, south to Mendeltna Creek

Subunit 3D: Trail from Glenn Hwy., 4 miles east of Atlasta House, north to Tolsona Creek

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 3 - North of Tazlina River (page 2 of 2)

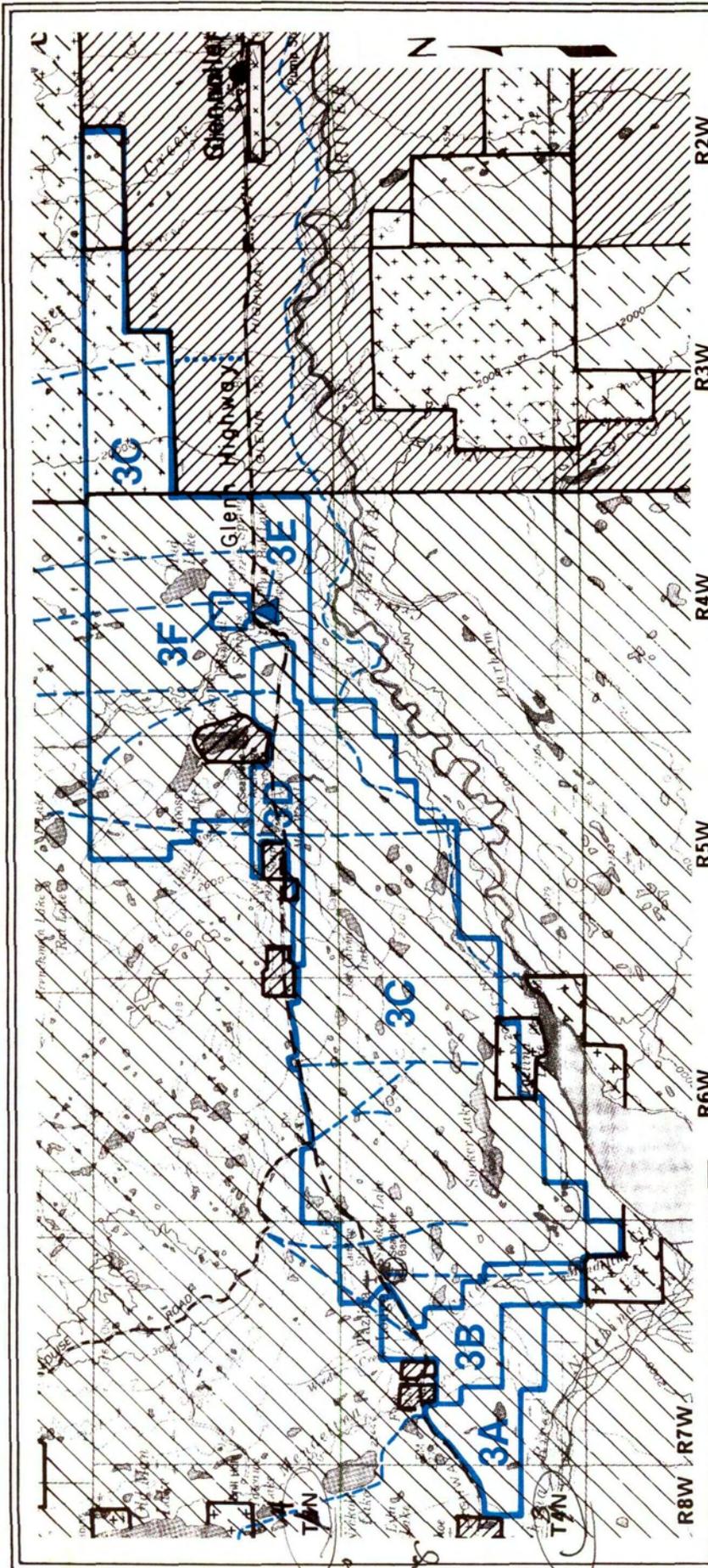
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	3E	3F
Fish	salmon - s	N/A
Forestry	moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	none ident.	high salt springs
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low
Recreation	existing state rec. site - Tolsona Creek none ident.	high - scientific values
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	low	unsuitable
Transportation	Glenn Hwy.	Glenn Hwy., trail to springs
Wildlife	B-1 habitat	B-1 habitat

Notes: Salt springs and mud volcano are located in subunit 3F north of Glenn Hwy.

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

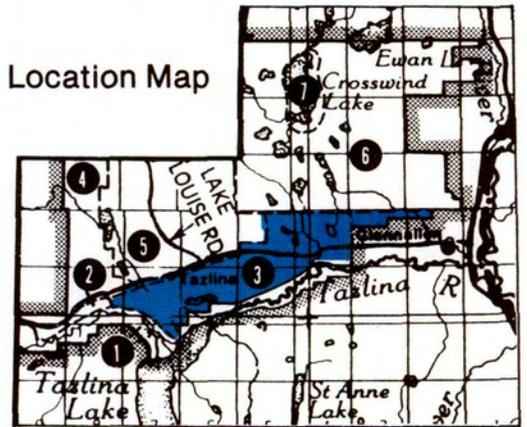
MANAGEMENT UNIT 3

North of Tazlina River



U.S.G.S. Quads:
 Gulkana
 Valdez
 Map scale:
 1:250,000

Location Map



- State Owned
- State Selected
- Native/Private Owned
- Native Selected
- Federal
- Trails on public lands
- Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 4: North of Glenn Highway Near Snowshoe Lake

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land north of the Glenn Highway near Snowshoe Lake. The Nelchina Public Use Area and Slide Mountain are west of the unit. A trail along the west shore of Snowshoe Lake provides access to Slide Mountain, an area with paleontological artifacts and fossils and splendid views from the top. Summer access through much of the area is difficult as most of the land is wet and swampy.

Management Intent

The southern part of the area (subunit 4A) will be retained in state ownership for multiple use, with emphasis on wildlife habitat. Old Man Lake will be managed as a wilderness lake and Snowshoe Lake as a recreation lake (see p. 2-41). Management subunit 4B will also be retained in public ownership for multiple use with seasonal restrictions on certain activities to protect trumpeter swans. The entire area is open to mineral entry.

In addition to the management intent for the entire unit, the following applies to specific subunits:

Subunit 4B. This subunit is an important swan nesting habitat. The area will be managed to protect nesting habitat and to require land uses be managed to minimize disturbance to swans.

Management Guidelines

Trumpeter Swans. The guidelines for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas (p. 2-10) apply to subunit 4B. The Alaska Legislature should consider designating the trumpeter swan habitat as a Critical Habitat Area to retain the land in public ownership and provide greater long term protection to the trumpeter swans.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 4 - North of Glenn Highway/ Snowshoe Lake

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
4A	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	
4B	State	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases,* ² Land offerings, Remote cabins	Swan management guidelines apply

*¹ Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

*² See management guidelines, page 2-10.

3-28

ACE 6329436

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 4 - North of Glenn Highway - Snowshoe Lake

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT'	
	4A	4B
Fish	salmon - s	salmon - s
Forestry	moderate conif.	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low
Recreation	moderate; some small lakes	low
Sand and Gravel	existing site and potential area	none identified
Settlement Suitability	low; unsuitable	low
Transportation	Glenn Hwy., floatplanes on Snowshoe Lake	none identified
Wildlife	A-2 habitat moose	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan, moose

Important Trails:

Subunit 4A: Two trails from Glenn Hwy. near Snowshoe Lake (may cross private land) north towards Nelchina Public Use Area

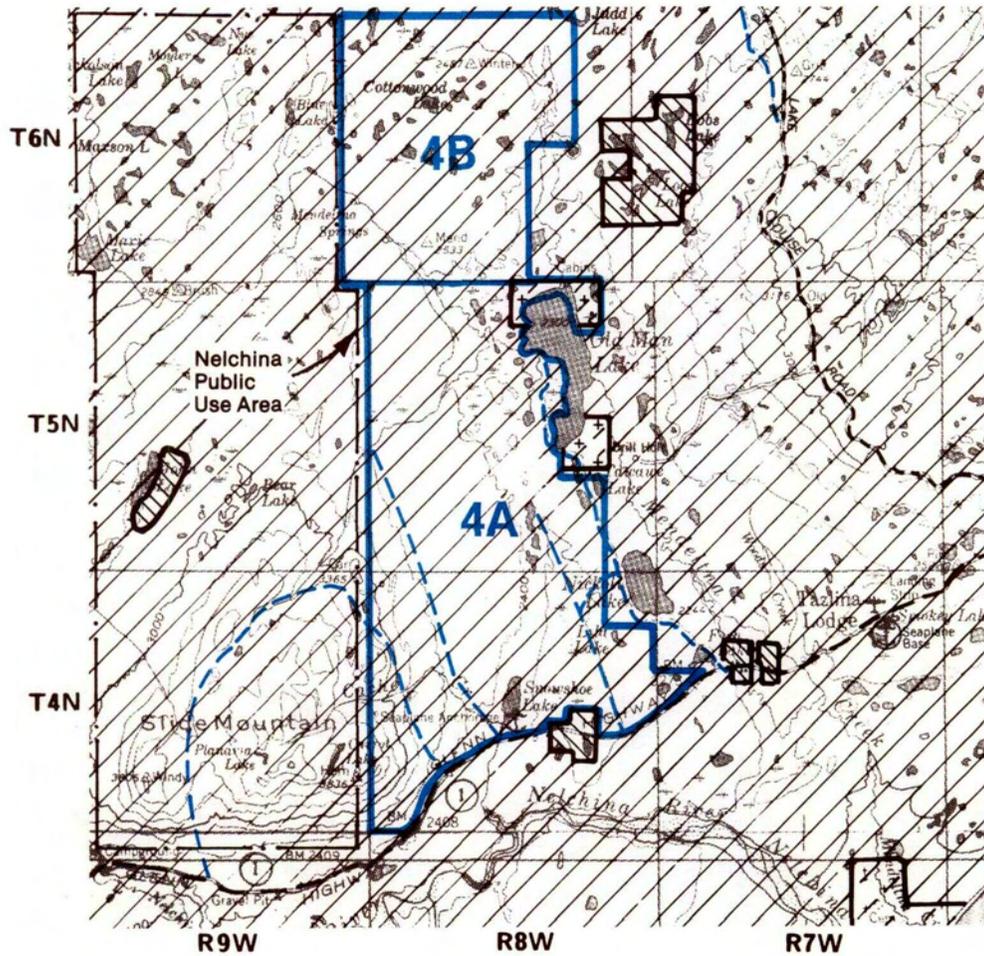
One trail from Glenn Hwy. east of Snowshoe Lake north towards Nickel Lake

Subunit 4B: Trail running east-west, from southern boundary of the state land disposal project near Loon Lake west towards Mendeltna Springs.

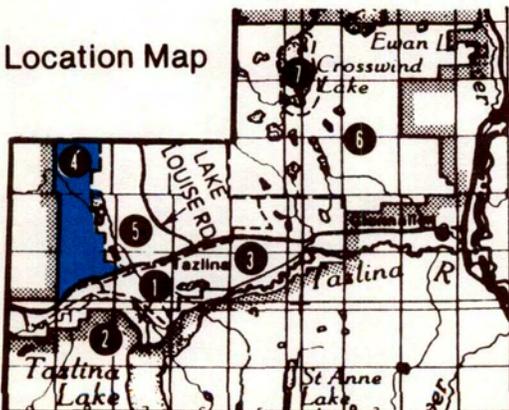
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 4

North of Glenn Highway - Snowshoe Lake



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5: Lake Louise Road Area

Background

This management unit includes land north of the Glenn Highway and within about 5 miles of the Lake Louise Road. Proximity to roads and high wildlife and recreation values makes this an area that will be actively managed for several uses.

Most of the unit is state owned, although many private parcels exist along the Glenn Highway. There have been three previous state land disposals within the area.

Management Intent

Management Subunits 5A, 5H. These state lands will be retained in public ownership for multiple use, with emphasis on wildlife habitat (especially caribou and moose) and dispersed recreation. These subunits will remain open to mineral entry. Several remote parcels are located in subunit 5H; these parcels remain closed to new mineral entry.

Management Subunits 5B, 5G, and 5I. These are past state land offerings. Unsold or unstaked parcels from previous land offerings and parcels that are not sold (due to foreclosure or failure to prove-up) can be reoffered for private ownership. Remaining state lands within each of these areas that were previously classified for retention will not be reclassified by this plan.

Subunit 5C - Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek. This management subunit includes state land that is now used for camping, picnicking, hunting, fishing, and floating (Mendeltna Creek). The area along the old Lake Louise Road provides exceptional views of Tazlina Lake, Tazlina Glacier, and the distant Chugach Mountains. Fairly intensive public use combined with passive land management has created problems with garbage and unauthorized uses (such as permanent camps) in the area. This area is also more suitable for camping than the two smaller state recreation sites along the Glenn Highway at Little Nelchina River and Tolsona Creek.

The area has considerable recreation potential because of a unique combination of opportunities for camping, canoeing, floating, cross country skiing, and snowmachining. The area is adjacent to the Glenn Highway and about three hours driving time from Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area.

This area will be actively managed for public recreation, yet will remain open to multiple use, particularly hunting and fishing. The area will be closed to new mineral entry. Camping and picnicking areas should be established near Crater Lake and along the old Lake Louise Road. The oil well road provides access to Mendeltna Creek and a canoe-floatboat put-in should be established here. Small rafts and canoes can float down to the Glenn Highway or canoes can be paddled upstream (with some effort) into Old Man Lake. Old Man Lake will be managed as a wilderness lake (see p. 2-41).

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating this area and possibly subunit 5F, as a state recreation area. This unit should be retained in public ownership and provided with appropriate funding for management according to these guidelines. An advisory board of local residents should be formed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to develop a legislative recommendation for the Commissioner of DNR (see page 4-11). The advisory board should make recommendations on the boundaries and management of the recreation area.

Until legislative designation occurs, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and DLWM will develop a cooperative agreement to give DPOR authority to develop and maintain recreation facilities on this land. The cooperative agreement should also specify which agency should enforce trespass and other land management responsibilities. DPOR will review all land use activities proposed for this area. Chapter 4 includes additional details on the proposed legislative designation.

Subunit 5D - Tolsona Ridge - Ridgeview. This management subunit includes land along the ridge from the Lake Louise Road to the top of Tolsona Ridge. The area will be offered for settlement under the land disposal program, although some land should be retained in public ownership to protect wetlands (located upstream from local water supplies) and protect access to areas north of the ridge for recreation, hunting and fishing (see management guidelines below for details). Approximately 2,500 acres (net) will be offered for private ownership. DNR will only authorize the construction of access roads to this land offering where the road has been platted as part of the land offering.

Subunit 5E - Tolsona Ridgetop. This is a small area of state land along the road that runs to the Alascom and former White Alice Station on top of Tolsona Ridge. The state-owned land along the road should be retained in public ownership for multiple use, particularly as an undeveloped recreation area and for forestry. The top of the ridge will be retained in state ownership and will be available for communication towers. The top of the ridge also affords exceptional vistas of the entire basin. The lower part of the road from the Glenn Highway crosses private land and an easement needs to be acquired (see management guidelines below).

Subunit 5F - Lakes North of Tolsona Ridge. The lakes north of Tolsona Ridge have excellent recreation potential and should be retained in public ownership and managed for recreation. The area is accessible from the Lake Louise Road via a section line. The lakes have potential for a canoe trail system. This potential should be evaluated and, if appropriate, DNR should pursue development of a canoe trail system here. The area should be considered for inclusion in the special legislative designation for the Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek area.

Access to a land offering at Ridgeview - Tolsona Ridge may be developed through the southern part of this area. This access should be designed to also provide access to the lakes.

Management Guidelines

Trails. The Resource Information Summary lists several trails, all of which should have marked trailheads and should be retained for public use through any proposed land offerings.

Tolsona Ridge Road. A road to the top of Tolsona Ridge is used for access to the communications towers on top of the ridge. The first 1/4 mile (approximately) of the road (called Happs Road) crosses private land on an easement that does not allow for public access. The landowners have expressed a willingness to provide the state with ownership of the road through a land exchange. DNR will pursue a land exchange with the private owners to acquire public ownership of this road.

School Site. A 40-acre site should be reserved at Milepost 159 to meet possible future needs for a school in this area.

Ridge View Land Offering (Subunit 5D). A system of open space within this unit should be retained to enhance the value of the land offering and to protect public use opportunities. Areas to be retained include:

1. Blueberry picking area within 1/2 mile of the north side of the Tolsona Ridge Road.
2. Several wood lots near the Glenn Highway.
3. The trailhead at the top of the hill in the eastern portion of the unit and the trail from Tolsona ridge to the lake in section 2A.
4. A 1/4-mile buffer east of the Lake Louise Road in the vicinity of the proposed recreation area (Subunit 5C).
5. A public-access route (including the road to the gravel pit) that links the Lake Louise Road and lakes north of the disposal area.

This land offering will be designed to protect views from the Glenn Highway (see p. 2-28).

Swan Staging Area - Old Man Lake. The outlet of Old Man Lake into Mendeltna Creek is an important spring and fall staging area for migrating trumpeter swans. The guideline for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 applies to any state land in T. 4 N., R. 8 W., Sections 11 (S 1/2) and 14 (N 1/2). Seasonal restrictions apply from April 15 through June 1 and September 15 through November 15, restrictions do not apply here from June 1 through September 15.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Wetlands management
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 5 - Lake Louise Road Area
(Page 1 of 3)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5A	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
5B	Past state land offering	Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Disposal area closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Loon Lake land offering
5C	State	Public recreation	Wildlife habitat	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins Grazing	Proposed legislative designation - Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek Area

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-36

ACE 6329442

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 5 - Lake Louise Road Area
(Page 2 of 3)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5D	State	Settlement	Forestry Water resources Wildlife habitat	Open to mineral entry. Disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Tolsona Ridge land offering - aprox. 2500 acres net
5E	State	Public recreation, Communication site	Wildlife habitat Forestry	Open to mineral entry except for communication site	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	
5F	State	Public recreation, Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Proposed canoe trail system on small lakes, possible legislative designation

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-37

ACE 6329443

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 5 - Lake Louise Road Area
(Page 3 of 3)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5G	Past state land offering	Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Disposal area closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Small lakes land offering
5H	State, some past state land offerings	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	T5N, R6W, is a past remote parcel offering
5I	Past state land offering	Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Disposal area closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	South of Lake Louise homestead area

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-38

ACE 6329444

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 5 - Lake Louise Road Area (page 1 of 3)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	5A	5B	5C	5D
Fish	salmon - s	salmon	salmon - s	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable	unsuitable	unsuitable	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	moderate	moderate to small lakes	very high; Mendeltna Creek, Crater Lakes area	moderate; scenic ridge
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	none ident.	existing site
Settlement Suitability	variable	past offering at Loon Lake	moderate to high	
Transportation	Lake Louise Rd.,	Lake Louise Rd.	Lake Louise Rd., Tazlina airstrip to south	Glenn Hwy., Lake Louise Rd.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose; B-1 - habitat	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose

Important Trails:

Subunit 5A and 5B: Trail from Lake Louise Rd. due west along southern boundary of state land disposal project at Loon Lake, towards Mendeltna Springs.

Trail from Lake Louise Road due west to Loon Lake state land disposal

Subunit 5C: Trail from Mendeltna Lodge, northeast to Lake Louise Rd.

Trail from Tazlina Lodge to Lake Louise Road

Trail from Glenn Hwy., 1 mile west of Lake Louise Rd. Junction to north of Lake Louise Rd.

Subunit 5D: Trail from Lake Louise Rd. east to Tolsona Ridge that parallels Glenn Hwy. 1 1-2 miles to the north

Notes: Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek (subunits 5C and 5F) is a potential state recreation unit

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 5 - Lake Louise Road Area (page 2 of 3)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	5E	5F	5G	5H
Fish	none docum.	none docum.	none docum.	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable	moderate conif. and decid.	unsuitable	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	high, scenic overlook	high, canoe lake system	low	low
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none	none	none
Settlement Suitability	high	moderate	past offering at small lakes	low; some past remote parcel entries in area
Transportation	road to top of ridge that crosses private land	none ident.	Lake Louise Rd.	Lake Louise Rd.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose

=====

Important Trails:

Subunit 5H: Trail (across private land) from Trapper's Den on the Glenn Hwy. north to north shore of Crosswind Lake

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

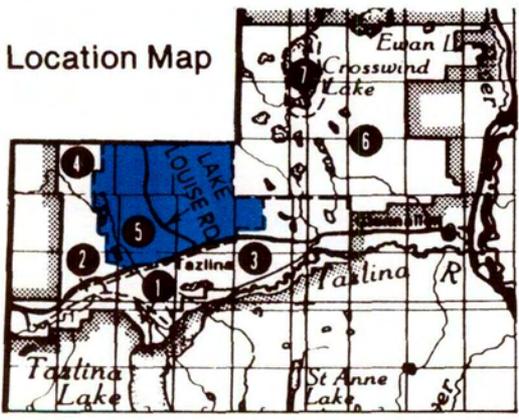
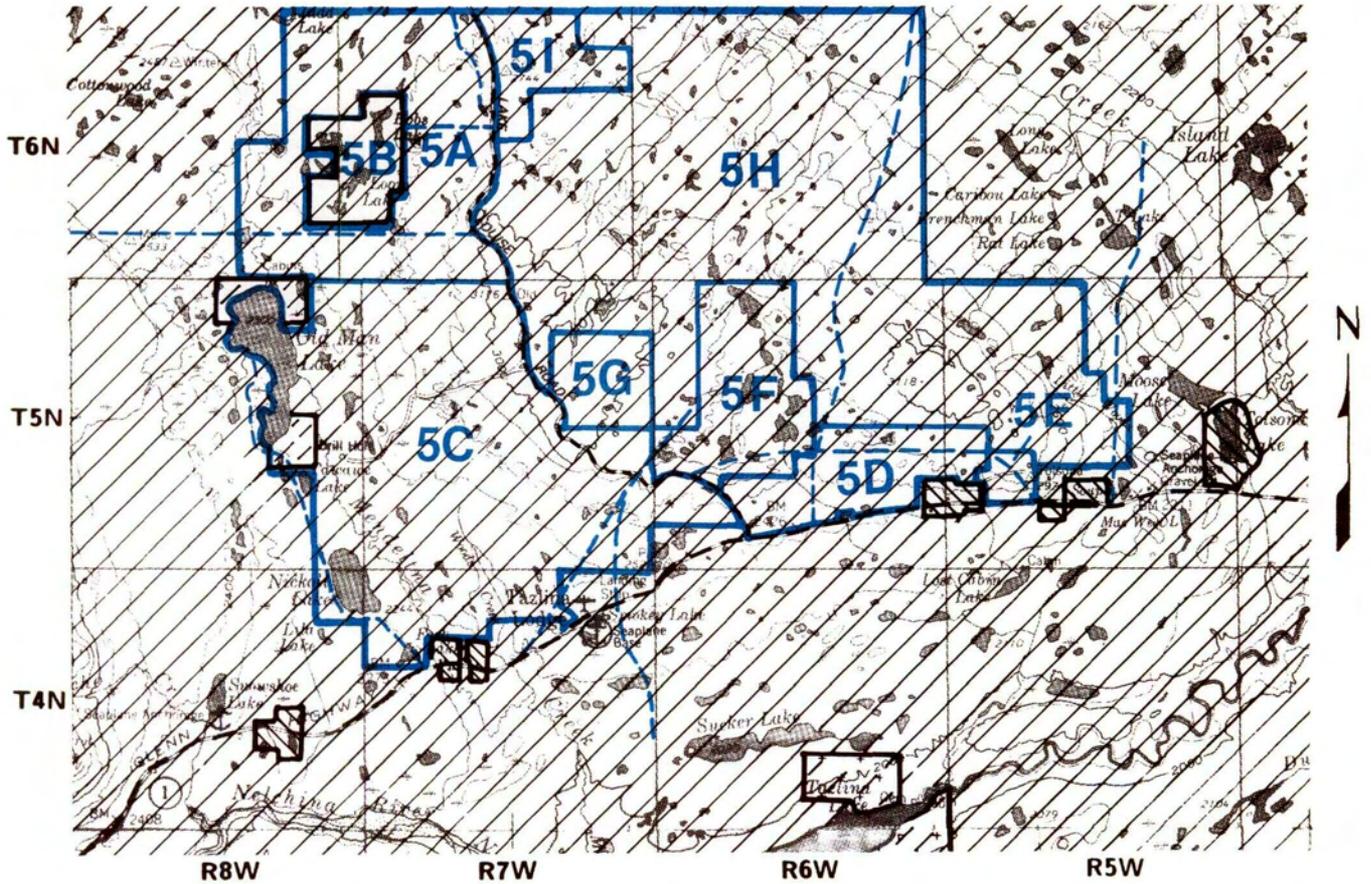
Management Unit 5 - Lake Louise Road Area (page 3 of 3)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	5I
Fish	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	low
Recreation	low
Sand and Gravel	none
Settlement Suitability	past offering at South Lake Louise
Transportation	Lake Louise Rd.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5

Lake Louise Road Area



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6: Crosswind Lake Area

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned and state-selected land to the east, south, and west of Crosswind Lake, but does not include Crosswind Lake (management unit 7). Most of this unit is swampy and wet, and summer use is restricted to fishing on larger lakes that can be reached by float planes. Twin Lakes and Island Lake (all in subunit 6A, south of Crosswind Lake) are popular recreation areas accessible by floatplanes. The island in Island Lake is considered a unique geologic feature. Many winter trails traverse the management unit. The area has many small ponds that serve as excellent nesting habitat for trumpeter swans. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating the area south and east of Crosswind Lake as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System.

Management Intent

The state-owned or state-selected in management subunit 6A will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use, with emphasis on wildlife habitat (moose, trumpeter swans, and caribou) and dispersed recreation. The land will remain open to mineral entry. During swan nesting periods (May 1 to August 31), surface uses regulated by permits or leases, including access by tracked vehicles and other heavy equipment, will be restricted. Most of the land is too wet for such vehicles during this time period. Land offerings, leases, or permits for settlement will not be allowed because of potential conflicts with swan habitats and the generally poor quality of the land. Twin Lakes and Island Lake will be managed as wilderness lakes (see p. 2-41).

All land in subunits 6B and 6C has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. Most of this land is likely to be conveyed to the Native corporation. Any state selected lands in these subunits not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., should be relinquished except where the land abuts other state land outside this unit (see Chapter 4 for further discussion of relinquishments).

ADF&G, DNR, Ahtna, Inc., and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should pursue a memorandum of understanding that assures protection of trumpeter swans and their nesting habitat on BLM, state, and Ahtna, Inc., lands in this area. If state-selected lands become state owned, they will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on protection of wildlife habitat. If state owned, these lands become open to mineral entry.

Management Guidelines

Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas. The guidelines for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 apply to this entire unit. The Alaska Legislature should consider designating this area as a Critical Habitat Area to retain the land in public ownership and provide greater long term protection to the trumpeter swans.

Reservation of Trail Easements. If additional land in this area is conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., the state should ensure that easements are retained on the trail to Ewan Lake from the Glenn Highway. The section of this trail from the highway in T. 4 N., R. 3 W., has already been reserved through an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Section 17(b) easement. The trailhead on the Glenn Highway should be marked.

Backscatter Radar. A large portion of this unit is one of the study areas for a potential USAF backscatter radar facility. If this unit is selected, the radar facility and access roads should be developed to minimize impacts on trumpeter swans and swan habitat and to enhance public use of the area.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 6 - Crosswind Lake Area

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
6A	State	Wildlife habitat	Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases* ² Land offerings Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply
6B	State selected- Native selected	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases* ² Land offerings Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply; Possible relinquishment (see guidelines)
6C	State selected- Native selected	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Possible relinquishment (see guidelines)

*¹ Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

*² See management guidelines, Page 2-10.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 6 - Crosswind Lake Area

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	6A	6B	6C
Fish	salmon	none docum.	none docum.
Forestry	moderate conif. moderate decid. - scattered	moderate conif. moderate decid. - scattered	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low
Recreation	high; Twin Lake & Island Lakes - fishing	moderate; Moose Creek - fishing	low
Settlement Suitability	low; unsuitable	low; unsuitable	low; unsuitable
Transportation	floatplanes to Twin Lakes, Island Lake	Ewan Lake is navigable	none ident.
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan, moose, caribou	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan, caribou	B-1 habitat

Important Trails:

Subunit 6A: Three trails from Glenn Hwy. to Crosswind Lake and continuing to Ewan Lake
Trail from Lake Louise Road to north shore of Crosswind Lake

Subunit 6B: Trail from Glenn Hwy. north to Ewan Lake [17(b) easement, reserved across
Ahtna, Inc., land]

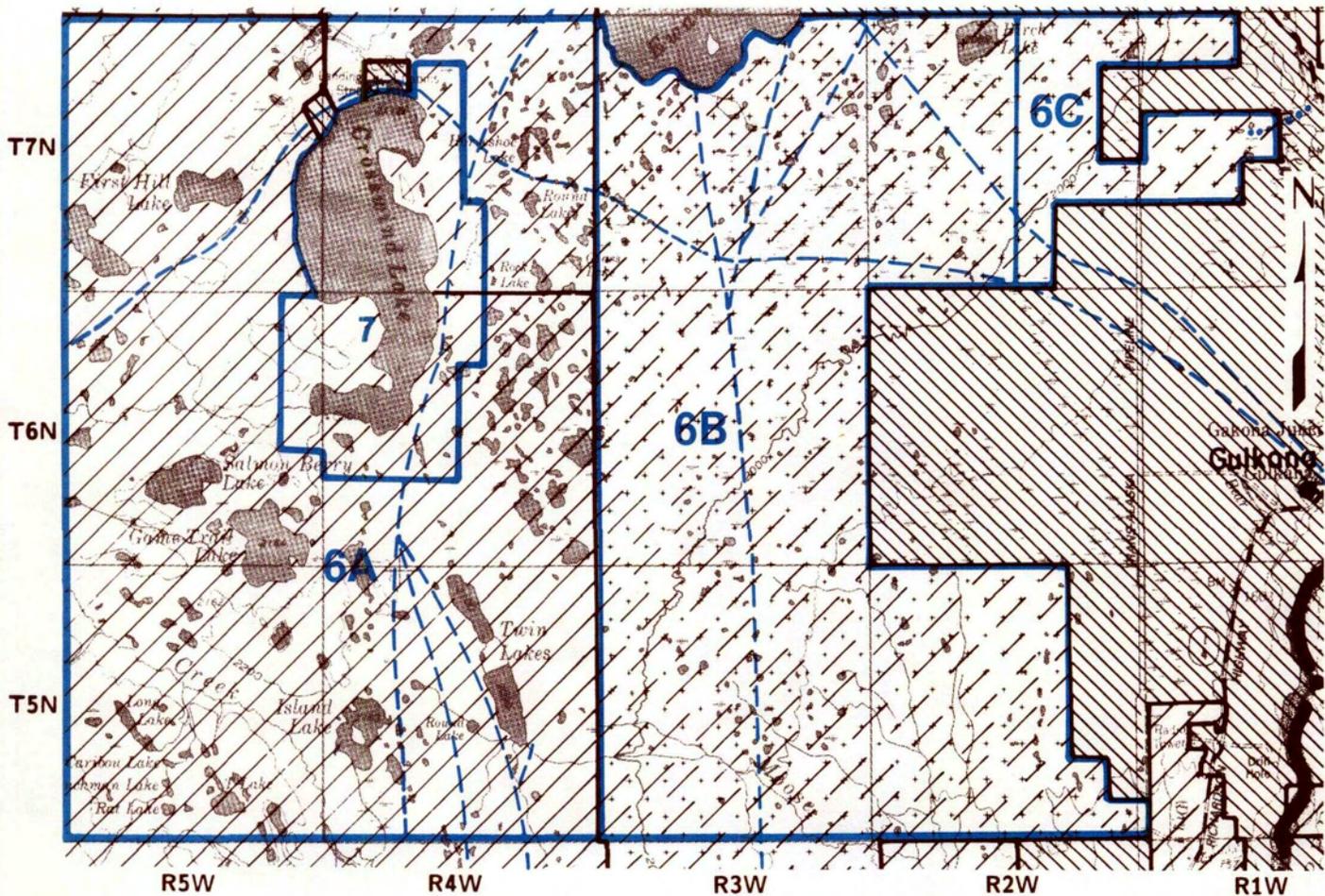
Trail from Gulkana to Crosswind Lake. Trail from Gulkana to Ewan Lake (neither have
easements reserved across Ahtna, Inc., land)

Subunit 6C: Trails same as 6B

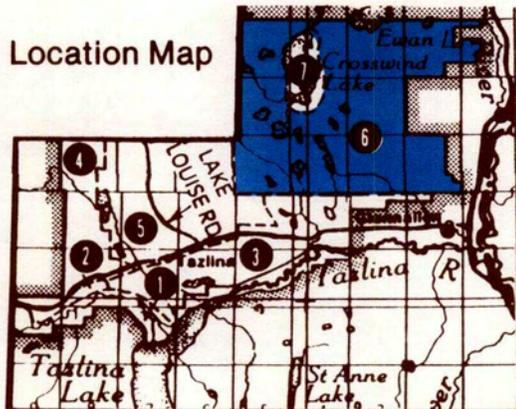
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources,
see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6

Crosswind Lake Area



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7: Crosswind Lake

Background

This management unit consists of Crosswind Lake and state land along the shore of the lake. There are many private parcels, many with cabins, located around the lake. The lake is used for fishing and water oriented recreation. Some cabins have been occupied year-round in the past. Access to the area is primarily by floatplane in summer and overland in winter. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating the area south and east of Crosswind Lake as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System.

Management Intent

The lake (subunit 7B) itself will be managed for water oriented recreation, fishing, and fish production. The lake bed will be closed to mineral location to protect these resources.

The Crosswind Lake area will be managed as a general development lake (see p. 2-42). The state land around the lake can be made available for additional settlement, although any existing, commonly used shoreline access points should remain in state ownership. More than 50 percent of the shoreline may be sold to private individuals, although a few sites suitable for public use, including camping, will be retained in public ownership. Archaeological sites (one Ahtna village site has been identified) and the trail along the southeast shore of the lake should also be retained in public ownership. About 250 acres of land may be available for future land offerings. Land offered for settlement would be closed to mineral location before sale. Any state land not offered for sale will be managed for multiple use, particularly recreation and habitat. These lands also will be open to mineral entry except sites frequently used for recreation that may be identified in the land disposal planning process (such as commonly used shoreline access points mentioned above).

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Wetlands management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 7 - Crosswind Lake

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
7A	State, small private parcels	Public recreation Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Open. Disposal area closed to mineral entry at time of offering	Available for leasing	Grazing, Remote cabins, Trapping cabins in settlement areas	Estimated net land offerings - 250 acres
7B	State, Crosswind Lake	Wildlife habitat Public recreation Water resources		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Land leases	Includes only the lake itself

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 7 - Crosswind Lake

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	7A	7B
Fish	salmon - s/r	salmon - s/r
Forestry	unsuitable	N/A
Historic-Cultural	high along shoreline	high along shoreline
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low
Recreation	high - lakeshore	high - Crosswind Lake; fishing, boating
Settlement Suitability	moderate; existing cabins	N/A
Transportation	private airstrip	Crosswind Lake is navigable, floatplanes
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan, caribou, osprey, eagles	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan,

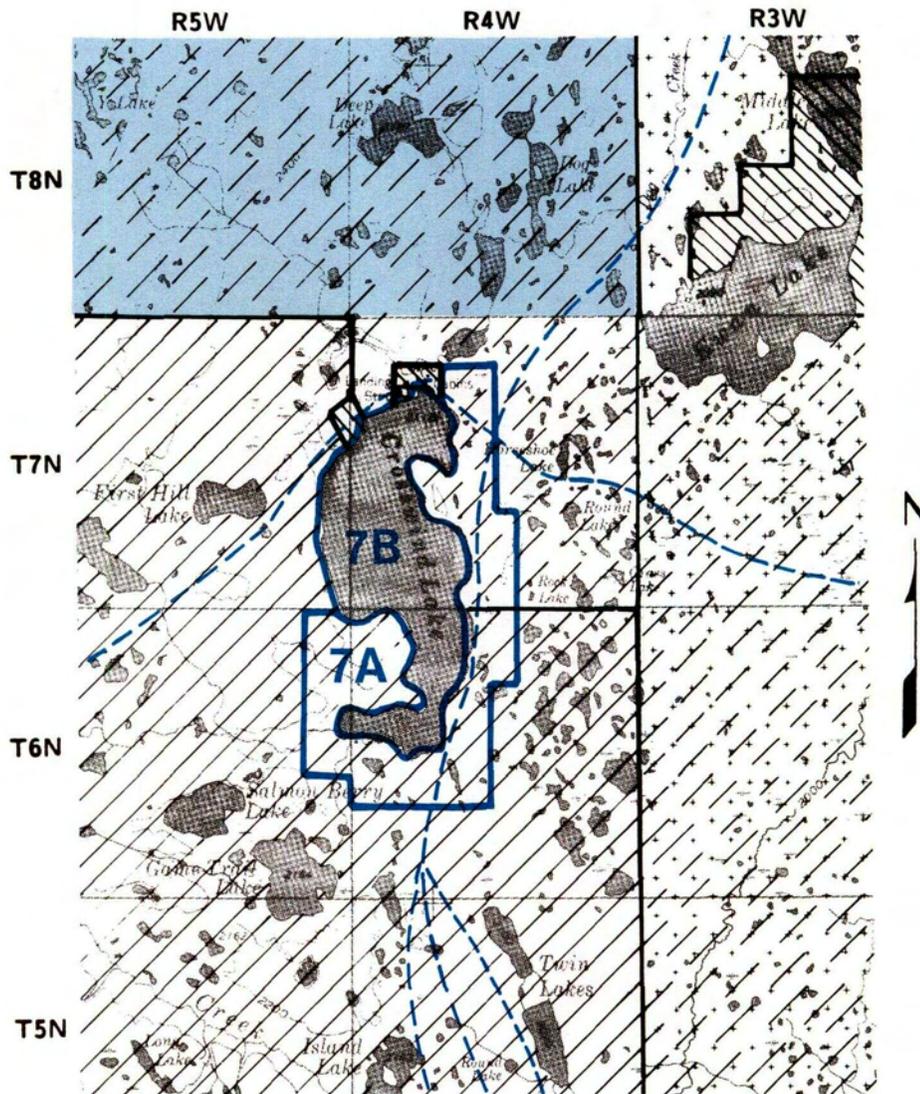
Important Trails:

Subunit 7A: Trail that parallels east shore of Crosswind Lake.

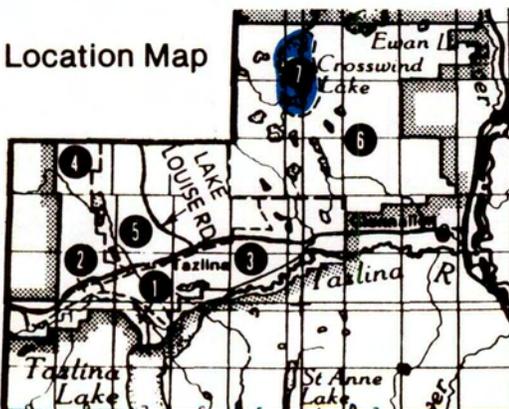
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7

Crosswind Lake



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Proposal Relinquishments

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8: Tazlina, Kaina, and St. Anne Lakes Area

Background

This unit includes land around Tazlina, Kaina, and St. Anne Lakes. It also includes Tazlina Lake, which is a navigable waterbody and therefore state owned. This large block of relatively remote land is almost entirely state owned or selected and has exceptional hunting, recreation, and wilderness values. Some large areas around Tazlina Lake also have been selected by Ahtna, Inc., although a majority of the lakeshore is likely to become state owned.

The area is extensively used for hunting with access primarily via aircraft. Some fishing occurs, especially at the outlets of Mendeltna and Kaina Creeks. A few cabins are located on Tazlina, Kaina, High, and St. Anne Lakes.

Management Intent

This entire area should be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on forestry, recreation, and wildlife habitat to retain fish, wildlife, and recreation resources for public use. The area is open to mineral location, except Kaina Creek, Kaina Lake, and St. Anne Creek. Kaina Creek and Kaina Lake produce a major part of the salmon populations in Tazlina River. St. Anne Creek is closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning areas. Settlement, through land offerings or remote cabin permits, is not allowed in this management unit. Several areas have settlement potential. However, conflicts with wildlife, archaeological sites, fire management or recreation, combined with difficult access and public objections to sales, resulted in the decision to retain this entire area in public ownership. Public use cabins are encouraged in this unit, especially on Kaina Lake, in Kaina Valley, and on Tazlina Lake.

Forestry has been designated as one of the primary uses of subunit 8A because of the extensive timber resources. The lack of good access to this area and the relatively unknown value of the timber makes commercial timber activities unlikely in the near term. The resources should be retained for future use.

St. Anne, Kaina, High, and southern Tazlina (in subunit 8B) Lakes will be managed as wilderness lakes as described in the lakeshore management guidelines in Chapter 2. The remainder of Tazlina Lake (subunit 8A) will be managed to preserve its wild character. Timber harvest and leasing for commercial recreation uses may be allowed along the shoreline of Tazlina Lake in subunit 8A if they are designed and located to minimize impacts on scenic resources, recreation, cultural values, and the natural character of the lake and lakeshore. Disturbance of shoreline vegetation should be minimized. Surface leasing for nonrecreation uses is not allowed within 1/4 mile of the lake. Public use cabins may be built around these lakes. The areas around High, Kaina, and St. Anne Lakes are important for fishing, hunting, and back country camping. These lakes are accessible by floatplanes. St. Anne Lake is an important area for trumpeter swans staging on their fall and spring migrations. Use of St. Anne Lake should be restricted during these migration seasons (see guidelines below).

Much of this area has potential for a state recreation area or state park status; however, the plan currently does not make such a recommendation. More active management of land uses associated with such designations is unnecessary at this time. By retaining the entire area in public ownership, the opportunity for future legislative designations in this area remains available.

Public use cabins are encouraged around Tazlina Lake and at Kaina Lake.

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closure. Land within 200 feet of Kaina and St. Anne Creeks, the creeks themselves, and the bed of Kaina Lake are closed to mineral location.

Tazlina River Trail. The Tazlina River Trail should be managed to complement the recreation river. Signs should be posted to mark the trail on state land.

Swan Staging Area - St. Anne Lake. The outlet of St. Anne Lake into St. Anne Creek is an important spring and fall staging area for trumpeter swans. The guideline for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 applies to T. 1 N., R. 4 W., Sections 25 and 36, Copper River Meridian. Seasonal restrictions apply from April 15 through June 1 and from September 15 through November 15; restrictions do not apply here from June 1 through September 15.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Lakeshore management
- Forestry

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 8 - Tazlina-Kaina-St. Anne Lakes

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
8A	State, State-Native selected	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Heritage resources	Open to mineral entry except St. Anne Creek, Kaina Lake, and Kaina Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Public use cabins encouraged around Tazlina and Kaina Lakes
8B	State, State-Native selected	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry Heritage resources	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Public use cabins encouraged around Tazlina Lake

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 8 - Tazlina, Kaina, St. Anne Lakes Area

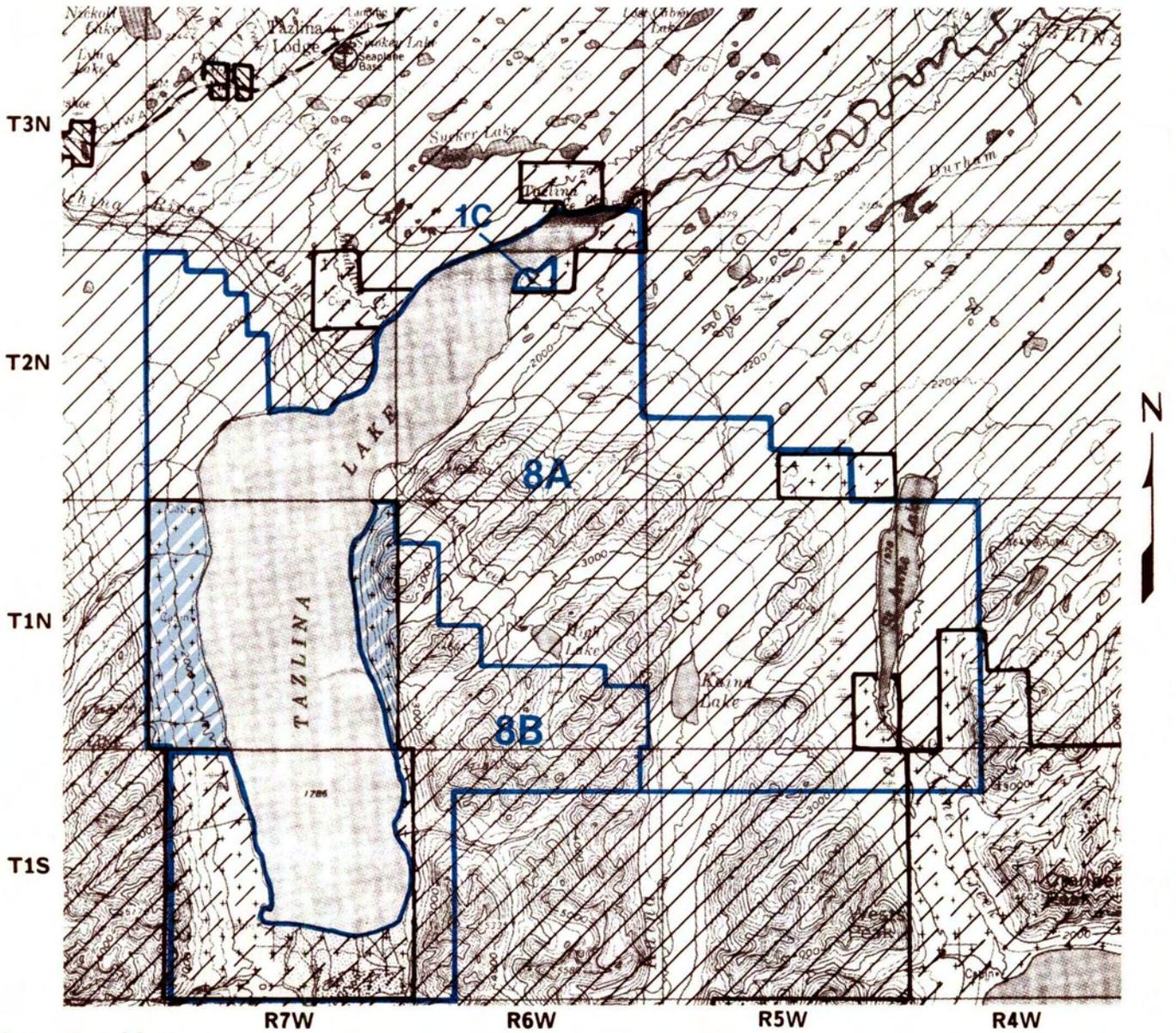
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	8A	8B
Fish	salmon - s steelhead - s	salmon - s steelhead - s
Forestry	high and moderate conif.	high and moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	high; cultural sites along shoreline	high along shoreline for cultural sites
Minerals	low	low
Oil and Gas	low	unknown
Recreation	very high on lakes, sand dunes, northwest shore of Tazlina Lake	very high on lakes
Settlement Suitability	variable	variable
Transportation	Tazlina Lake is navigable, floatplanes	Tazlina Lake is navigable
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - moose	A-2 habitat - moose; B-2 habitat

Notes: Potential for future state recreation area identified around Tazlina, St. Anne, and Kaina Lakes. Prime hunting area.

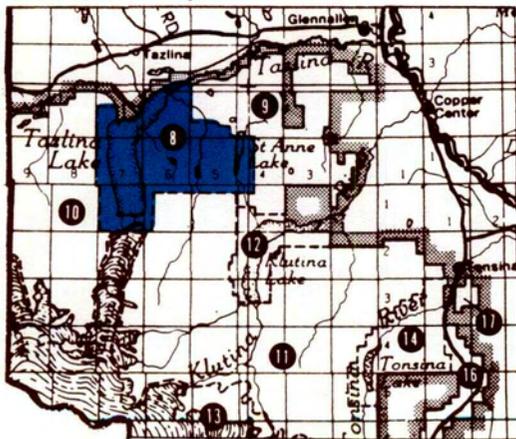
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8

Tazlina Lake/Kaina Lake/St. Anne Lake



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections

MANAGEMENT UNIT 9: Between Tazlina and Klutina Rivers

Background

This unit consists of a large block of state-owned and state-selected land, intermixed with large tracts of Ahtna, Inc., land between the Tazlina and Klutina Rivers. About half the land in this unit has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc.

The area is used for hunting and trapping. Although the area has relatively good stands of timber, these resources are generally too far from roads or communities to be harvested for local use. Settlement and recreation opportunities are limited due to poor soils, inaccessibility, and lack of amenities.

Management Intent

The entire area should be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, forestry, and dispersed recreation. The management unit is open to mineral entry, except for a part of Kaina Creek that crosses through the unit. Land within 200 feet of Kaina Creek and the creek itself is closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning areas.

Subunits 9A and 9C contain important trumpeter swan nesting areas. These habitats will be protected. (See management guidelines below.)

Forestry has been designated as one of the primary uses of much of this unit because of extensive forest resources. The lack of good access to this area and relatively unknown potential for commercial timber harvest make forestry activities unlikely in the near future. The resources should be retained for future use.

Forestry is specifically allowed in areas identified as important trumpeter swan nesting habitat in subunits 9A and 9C. Seasonal restrictions, such as requirements for winter harvest, and site specific mitigation measures will ensure protection of swans while allowing for timber harvest.

Management Guidelines

Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas. The guidelines for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 apply to subunits 9A and 9C. The Alaska Legislature should consider designating this area as a Critical Habitat Area to retain the land in public ownership and provide greater long term protection to the trumpeter swans.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 9 - Between Tazlina/Klutina Rivers

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
9A	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases, ² Land offerings, Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply
9B	State, State-Native selections	Forestry Recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	
9C	State, State-Native selections	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases, ² Land offerings, Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply
9D	State selections	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	

*¹ Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

*² See management guidelines

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 9 - Between Tazlina and Klutina Rivers

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	9A	9B	9C	9D
Fish	salmon - s steelhead-s	salmon steelhead	steelhead	salmon - s/r/m steelhead - s
Forestry	high; moderate conif.	high; moderate conif. & decid.	moderate conif.	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces	low	outside of known mineral terraces	low
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	unknown
Recreation	high; St. Anne Lake	high	high	low
Settlement Suitability	low	low	low	low
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan habitat, important fall staging area on lake	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat - Dall sheep, moose	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swans	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat - Dall sheep, moose

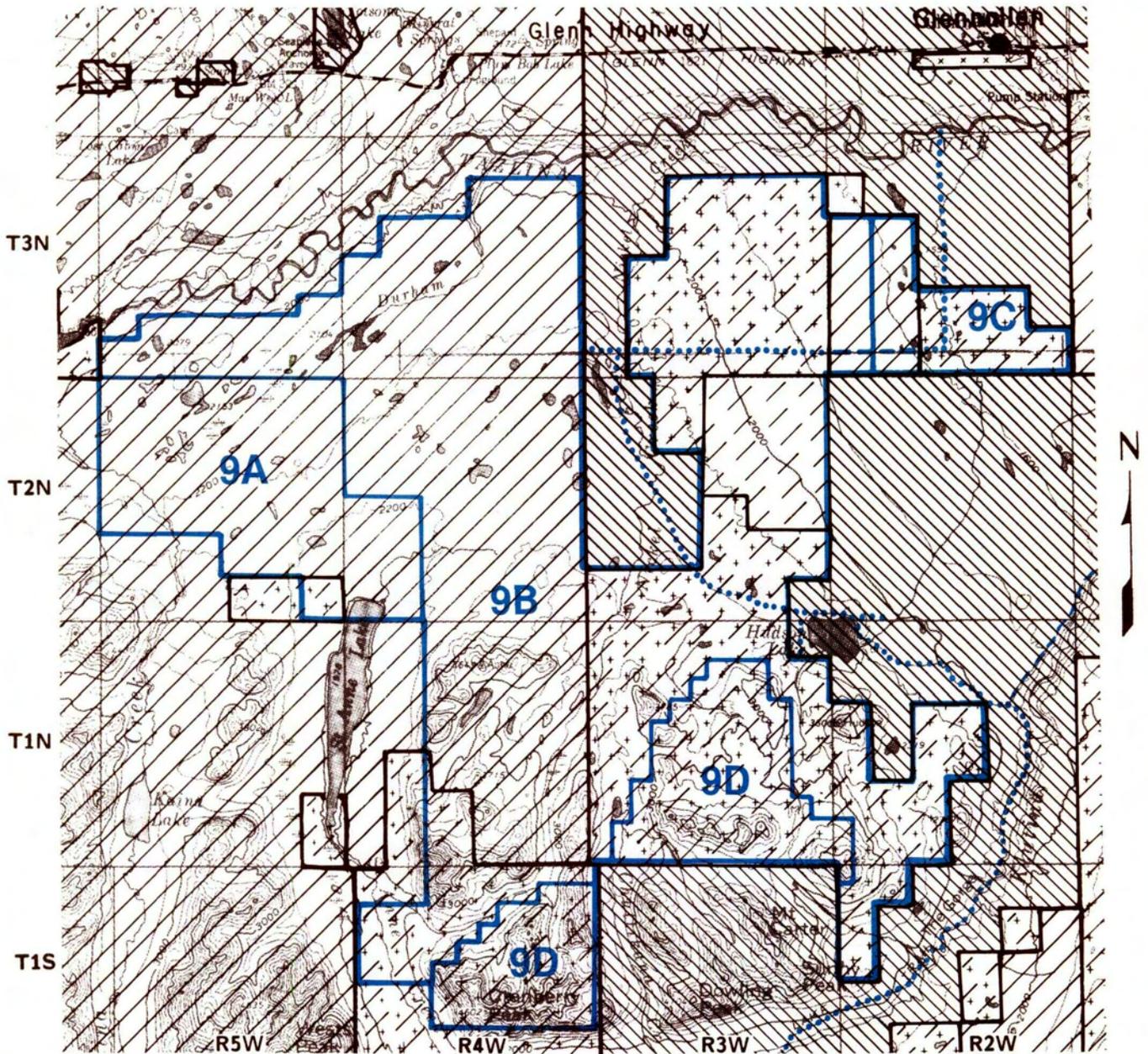
Important Trails:

Subunit 9B: 17(b) easement in T3N, R3W provides access from Tazlina to areas south of Tazlina River; trail and easement are out of alignment in T3N, R2W, Sec. 3, 10
17(b) easement from Klutina Lake road around Hudson Lake to Nickel Creek
Subunit 9C: 17(b) easement in T3N, R2W from Tazlina River south 5 miles

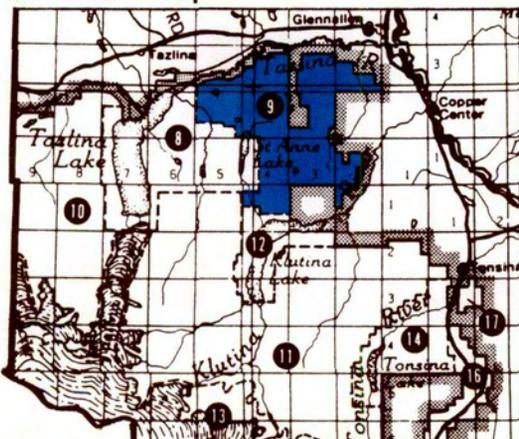
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 9

Between Tazlina River & Klutina River



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10: West of Tazlina Lake

Background

Management Unit 10 includes state-owned and state-selected land south of the Nelchina River and west of Tazlina Lake (subunit 10B consists of the Chugach Mountains west of Tazlina Glacier). The state owns most of the land in the northern part of the unit; however, two townships to the south have conflicting state and Ahtna, Inc., selections. The area is used for hunting and trapping, and a few cabins have been built on a former state remote parcel offering around Twin Lakes and the south side of the Nelchina River.

Management Intent

The land in this unit will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. Primary surface uses are forestry, recreation, and wildlife habitat in the north and wildlife habitat in the south where there are no timber resources. The northern area (subunit 10A) has extensive forest resources, although no timber sales currently are planned. The entire area (except past remote parcel offerings) remains open to mineral entry.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 10 - West of Tazlina Lake

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
10A	State, some private	Forestry Recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Past land offering in north
10B	State, State-Native selected	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-70

ACE 6329468

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

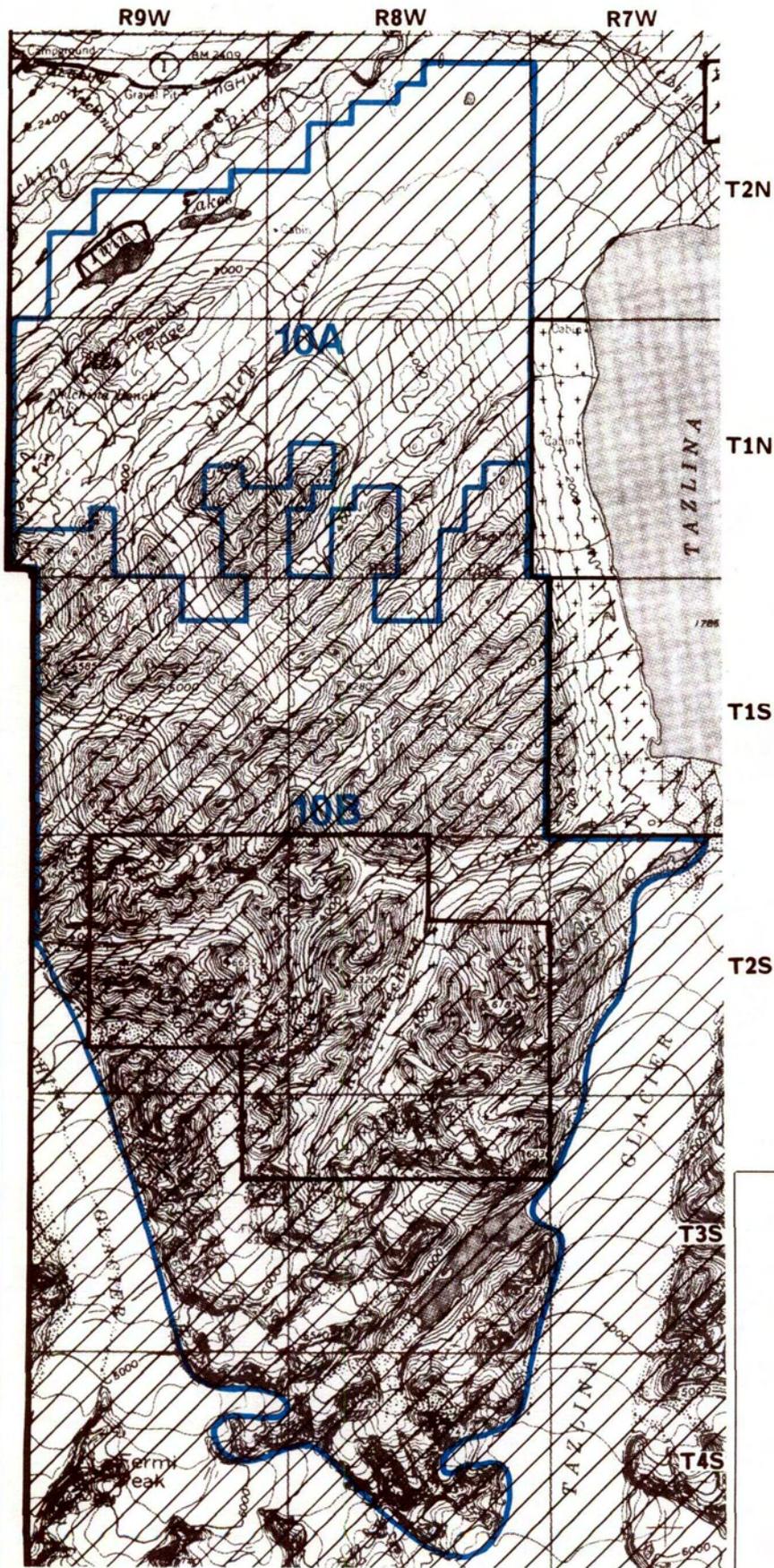
Management Unit 10 - West of Tazlina Lake

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	10A	10B
Fish	none docum.	none docum.
Forestry	moderate coniferous	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high at Twin Lakes and Bottley Creek; other areas low	high at glacial lake; other areas low
Settlement Suitability	low, past land offering in north	unsuitable
Transportation	no roads or identified airstrips south of Nelchina River	
Wildlife	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat - moose, Dall sheep	B-2 habitat

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

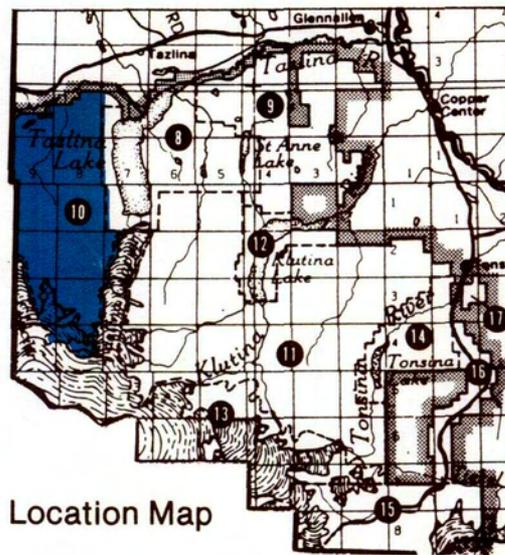
MANAGEMENT UNIT 10

West of Tazlina Lake



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000



Location Map

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal

MANAGEMENT UNIT 11: Chugach Mountains

Background

This management unit consists primarily of state-owned land in the Chugach Mountains between Tazlina Lake and Tonsina Lake. Although most of the area is state owned, some of the land near Klutina Lake remains under conflicting selections between the state and Ahtna, Inc. The entire unit is used for hunting and trapping. Several cabins exist in the Kaina, Klutina, Manker, and Greyling valleys, some of which appear to be trespass cabins. Settlement opportunities are limited to locations suitable only for isolated cabins due to generally poor land quality and inaccessibility.

Management Intent

The entire area will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, especially moose and bear. Forestry is also designated as a primary use of river valleys, although extensive harvest is not likely because the area is so remote. The management unit is open to mineral entry, except for designated portions of Mahlo River, Greyling Creek, Manker Creek, and the Klutina River, which are closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning and rearing areas. Dispersed public recreation is also a primary use of subunit 11E.

The state should initiate trespass action against any unauthorized cabins in this area. Some of these cabins could be converted to public use cabins (see management guideline below). This plan intends that no additional cabins be built in the Upper Kaina or Klutina drainages (in the area above the respective lakes). The number of human dwellings in the Manker and Greyling Creek drainages (subunit 11D) should also remain the same as the number that exist on the date when the plan is approved.

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of designated portions of Mahlo River, Greyling Creek, Manker Creek, and the Klutina River and the streams themselves are closed to mineral location.

Cabins. The state should initiate trespass proceedings against any unauthorized cabins in Kaina Valley (subunit 11B) and Klutina Valley (subunit 11C). If one of the cabins in these subunits becomes state owned, it should be converted to a public use cabin. If an existing cabin is destroyed, the state may construct a new public use cabin in the area.

Two cabins, at least one a public use cabin, will be allowed in the Manker and Greyling Creek Valleys (subunit 11D). Public use cabins or private remote cabins may not be built until DNR has resolved the status of any unauthorized cabins now present in these valleys.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Remote cabins
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 11 - Chugach Mountains
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
11A	State, State-Native selected	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry except Mahlo River	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
11B	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Public use cabins encouraged; see guidelines
11C	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except Klutina River	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Public use cabins encouraged; see guidelines

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-76

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**LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
 MANAGEMENT UNIT: 11 - Chugach Mountains
 (Page 2 of 2)**

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
11D	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Remote cabins	Open to mineral entry except Greyling Creek, Manker Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings	Remote cabins permitted, see guideline
11E	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-77

ACE 6329474

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 11 - Chugach Mountains (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	11A	11B	11C	11D
Fish	salmon-s/r steelhead-s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon-s/r/m steelhead	salmon-s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	moderate conif.	moderate conif.	high-moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	outside of known mineral terranes	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high at Iceberg Lake & along Klutina River; other areas-low	low	high along Klutina River.	low
Settlement Suitability	unsuitable	low	low to moderate	low to moderate
Transportation	some aircraft landing areas	none ident.		none ident.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat - moose; B-2 habitat, some areas used for swan nesting	B-2 habitat

Important trails:

Subunit 11A: Trail from Stuart Creek (near Tiekel) on Richardson Hwy. west to Klutina Valley Trail

Trail up Mahlo River Valley

Subunit 11C: Historic trail from Valdez to Klutina Lake that follows Klutina River Valley

Subunit 11D: Trail up Manker Creek Valley

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 11 - Chugach Mountains (page 2 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	11E
Fish	none documented
Forestry	moderate coniferous
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	low
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	high potential along Tonsina River; floating
Settlement Suitability	low
Transportation	none identified
Wildlife	B-2

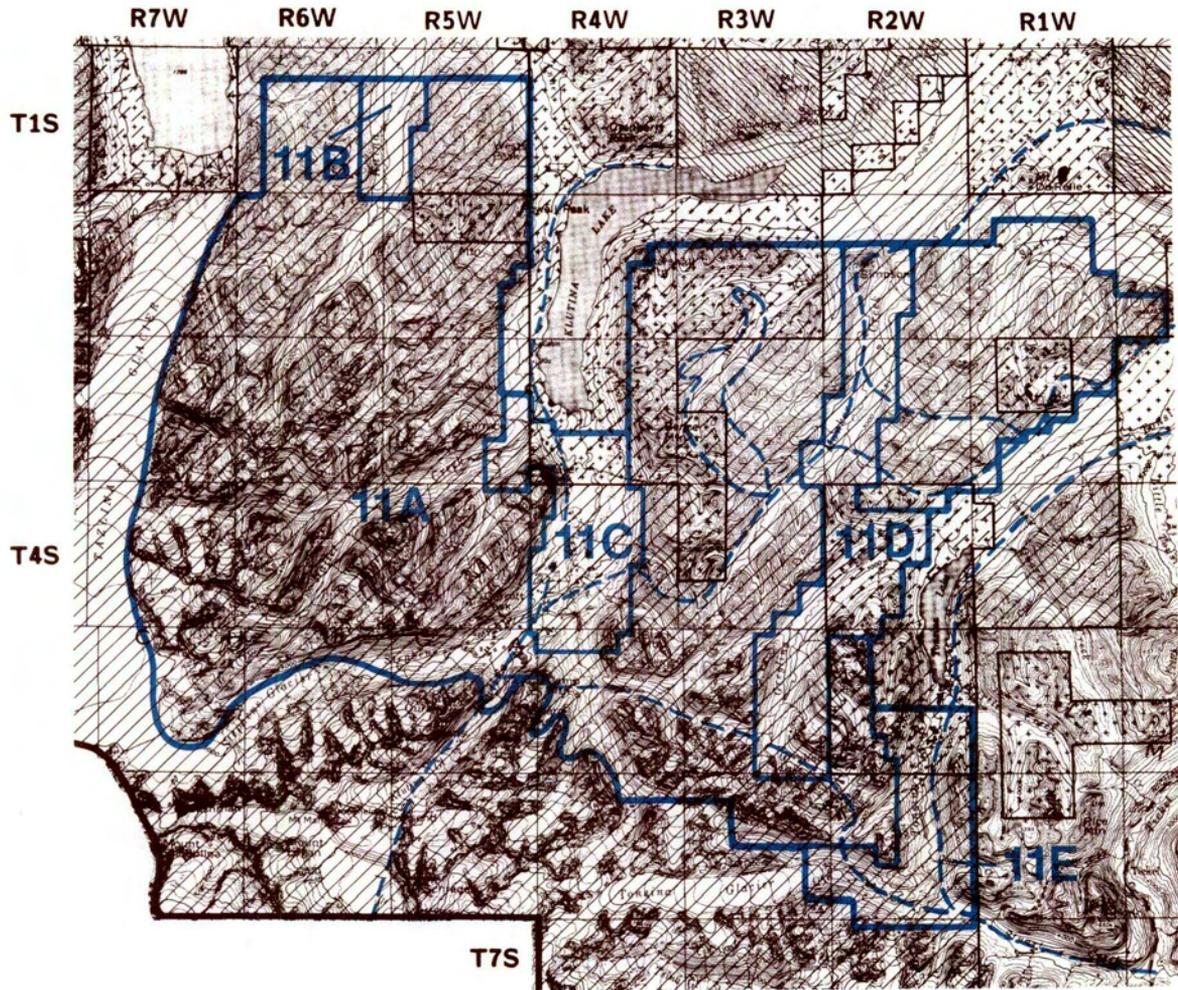
Important trails:

Subunit 11E: Trail from Stuart Creek on Richardson Hwy. (near Tiekel) to Klutina Valley.
Tonsina River Trail

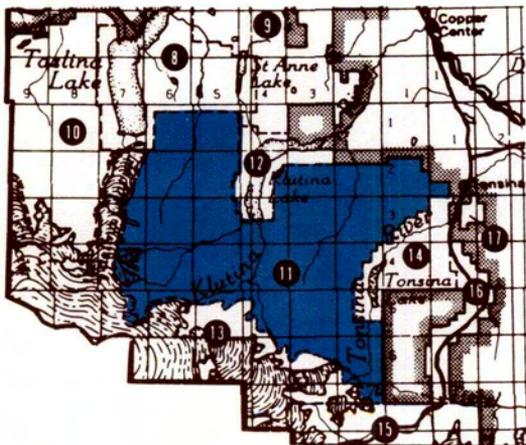
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 11

Chugach Mountains



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:500,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 12: Klutina Lake and River

Background

This management unit includes Klutina Lake, Klutina River, and land around the lake. Almost all the land around Klutina Lake has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. The land along the northeast end of the lake has already been conveyed already to Ahtna, Inc., and the land around the outlet is privately owned. Native land selections have priority over state selections, and Ahtna, Inc., has indicated that this area has a high priority for conveyance.

Klutina Lake is accessible via a four-wheel-drive road from Copper Center that ends at the lake. The historic Valdez to Copper Center trail follows the northern and western shore of the lake. An easement established under ANCSA Section 17(b) follows the road and trail and should continue through any additional conveyances around the north and west side of the lake. The lake is a popular hunting, fishing, and recreation area; the shoreline has a high potential for archaeological sites.

Klutina Lake and Klutina River (to the Copper River) are navigable and are state owned. Klutina River from the lake to Copper Center is popular for floating, jet boating, guiding and fishing. All of the land that abuts the river is owned by Ahtna, Inc., or other private landowners.

Management Intent

Subunit 12A - Land Around Klutina Lake. The land around the lake should be managed for recreation, habitat, and forestry values. Development of commercial recreation facilities and private recreation cabins is likely on existing private land and possible on lands conveyed to Ahtna, Inc. Management of state land will largely be determined by what land the state ultimately owns around the lake. Most state-owned land around the lake will be retained in public ownership for multiple use with emphasis on forestry, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Many areas have been identified as suitable for recreational settlement, including the area along the western and southern shores of the lake. Should the state receive title to areas suitable for such settlement, a land offering of approximately 500 acres (net) is proposed in this unit.

More specific decisions on managing state land in this area are not possible due to uncertain land ownership. If the state acquires title to enough land in this area to permit settlement or recreation facilities, it may be necessary to convene an interagency planning team to determine the location of such developments. After land ownership issues are resolved, the potential for any legislative designations to protect public recreation lands in public ownership should be evaluated.

Any state-owned land around the lake would be open to mineral entry except land offering areas and St. Anne Creek. St. Anne Creek is important for salmon spawning and resident fisheries and would be closed to new mineral entry.

Subunit 12B - Klutina Lake and River. The lake and river will be managed to protect salmon spawning areas, other fish habitat, and public recreation. The lake and river (above Manker Creek) will be closed to mineral location to protect these resources. Leases would be limited to water dependent uses compatible with the management intent of this subunit.

Recreation use of the Klutina River has increased for floating, boating, and fishing. As recreation use of the river increases, the state should evaluate the need for

public campgrounds and additional access points between the lake and Copper Center. A public take-out for floaters should be established at Copper Center.

Management Guidelines

Trails. An easement should be reserved for the Copper Center to Valdez trail across state lands and any land conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., around the north and west shore of Klutina Lake.

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Klutina River (above Manker Creek) and St. Anne Creek, the streams themselves, and the bed of Klutina Lake will be closed to mineral location.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Trail management
- Public access
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Public access
- Lakeshore management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 12 Klutina Lake

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
12A	State and Native selections	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Settlement	State-owned land would be open to mineral entry except St. Anne Creek	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Status of most land is uncertain. Estimated net land offering - 500 acres
12B	State - Klutina Lake and Klutina River	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Lake and river above Manker Creek closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings	Includes only land under the lake and river that is navigable

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-85

ACE 6329480

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 12 - Klutina Lake

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	12A	12B
Fish	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	moderate conif.	N/A
Historic-Cultural	high for prehistoric settle- ments along shoreline	high for prehistoric settlements along shoreline
Minerals	low	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	very high around Klutina Lake and River; floating, fishing, boating, camping	very high along Klutina Lake and River; floating, fishing, boating
Settlement Suitability	moderate to high	N/A
Transportation	road to lake; airstrip below mouth of lake	Klutina Lake and Klutina River are navigable; Klutina Lake Road.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat

Important trails:

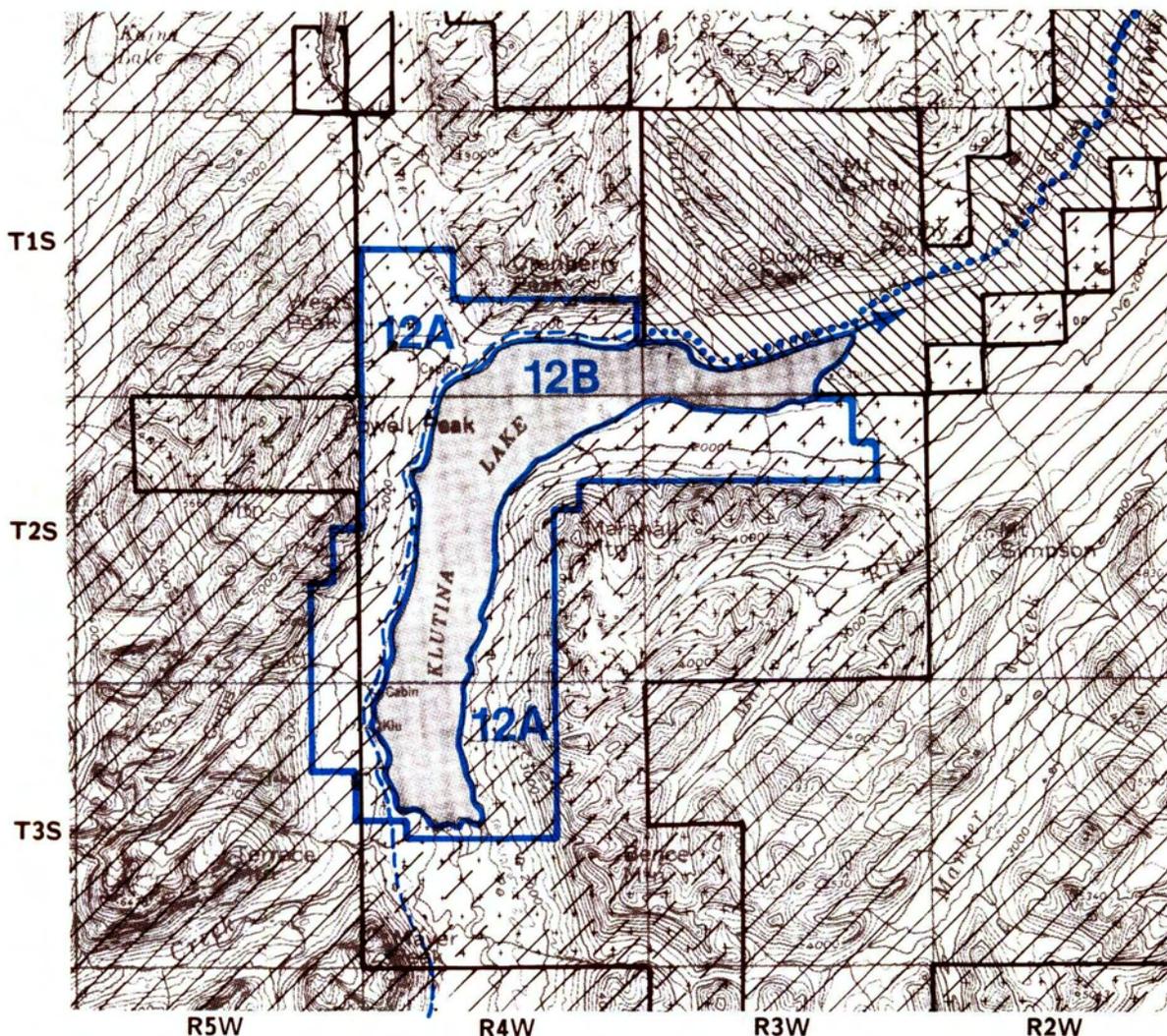
Subunit 12A: Klutina Lake trail, part of historic trail from Valdez to Copper Center.

4-wheel drive road-trail from Klutina Lake to Copper Center (17(b) easement). Trail continues around north and west shores of lake

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

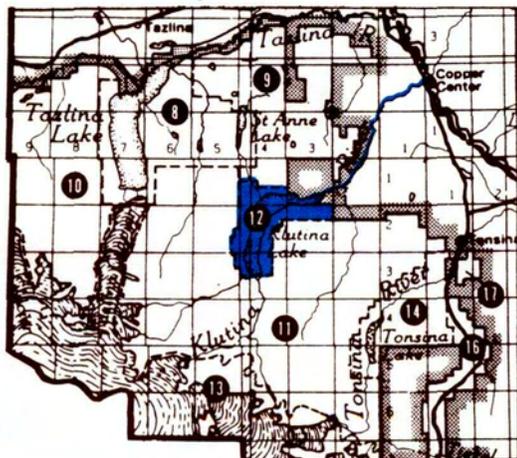
MANAGEMENT UNIT 12

Klutina Lake



Unit 12b extends on the Klutina River to the Copper River

Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:

Valdez

Map scale:

1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 13: Chugach Glaciers

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land that is mainly covered by glaciers or icefields or consists of steep mountain peaks. The land borders Chugach National Forest to the south. The area is primarily over 4,000 feet above sea level, except for the lower reaches of larger glaciers. The entire unit is a rarely used wilderness with no known extractable resources of economic value.

Management Intent

The area needs no active management. The area is open to mineral entry, although in most areas the surface (and any minerals) is covered by glaciers.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines potentially could apply to uses within this management unit.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 13 Chugach Glaciers

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
13	State	Resource management, low value	Recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Very few uses are practical

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 13 - Chugach Glaciers

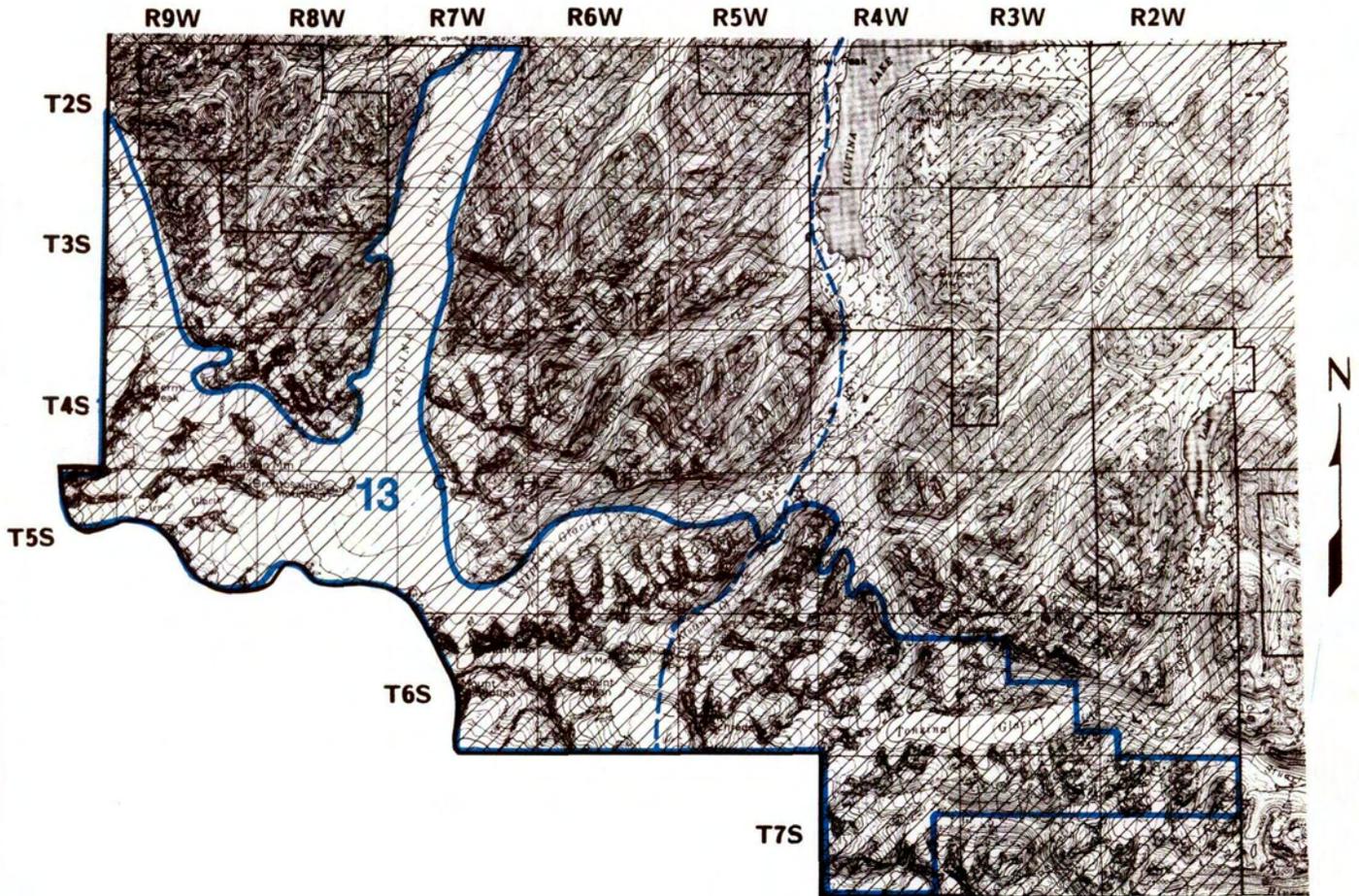
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	13
Fish	unsurveyed
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	low
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	low except glacier travel
Settlement Suitability	unsuitable
Transportation	ski planes
Wildlife	unrated

Important Trails: Historic Valdez - Copper Center trail follows Valdez and Klutina Glaciers

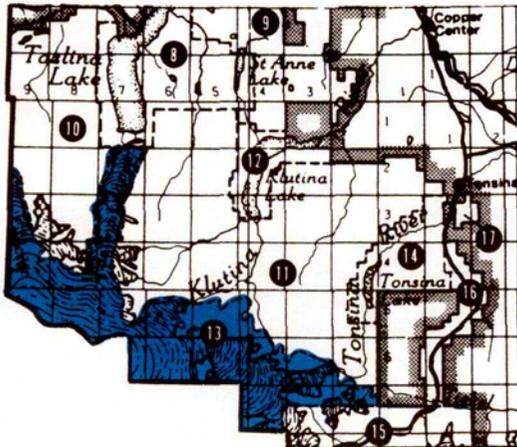
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 13

Chugach Glaciers



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:500,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 14: Tonsina Lake

Background

This unit includes the land around Tonsina Lake and Tonsina River upstream (west) of the Richardson Highway. Most of the land is state owned, although a few state selections, which conflict with Ahtna, Inc., selections, occur around Tonsina Lake.

The area is used for hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreation (river floating, hiking, and camping). The area to the east of Tonsina Lake has a history of mining activity, but no active mining has occurred in the area in recent years. Some old mining buildings can still be found in this area. Numerous trails cross the Tonsina River valley and other valleys in the area. Most of these are old mining trails that are seldom used.

The Tonsina River, from the lake to the Squirrel Creek campground, is a relatively easy and scenic wilderness float trip, but is only occasionally used. Floating downstream from Squirrel Creek is more popular. (See management unit 18.) Motorboats are also taken up the river to Tonsina Lake, primarily during hunting season.

Management Intent

All state land in the management unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. Primary surface resource values to be managed for are dispersed public recreation, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, and forestry. All uplands are open to mineral location. Greyling Creek, Tonsina Lake, and Tonsina River (between the lake and Rainbow Creek) are closed to mineral entry to protect salmon spawning and rearing habitat, resident fisheries, and public recreation values.

The Tonsina Lake area will be managed as a wilderness lake (see p. 2-41). One or two carefully located public use cabins should be constructed by DNR at the northern end of the lake. Land offerings and permits for private cabins are not allowed. Forestry is designated as a primary use north of the lake and in Tonsina Valley, although no timber sales currently are proposed for the area. Tonsina Lake has potential for special legislative designation to protect recreation and wilderness values, although the plan does not identify the need for such designation at this time.

The Tonsina River valley (between the lake and the Richardson Highway) will be managed for recreation, forestry, and wildlife habitat. Existing trail access from the road to the lake should also be ensured.

Management subunit 14F is the existing Squirrel Creek State Recreation Site, which will remain in public ownership and continue to be managed as a state recreation site. The site is used for camping, picnicking, swimming, and as a put-in or take-out site for river floaters. An Interagency Land Management Agreement should be established for this site.

Management Guidelines

Trails. Easements should be reserved for the Squaw Creek trail from Richardson Highway to Tonsina Lake via Quartz or Hurtle Creek if Native selections are approved. (The trail is in subunit 14B and adjacent federal land.)

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Greyling Creek and the Tonsina River between Tonsina Lake and Rainbow Creek, the streams themselves, and the bed of Tonsina Lake will be closed to mineral location. Subunit 14F, the Squirrel Creek State Recreation Site, should be closed to mineral entry.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 14 Tonsina Lake
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
14A	Mostly state Some state- Native selections	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except part of Tonsina River	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Proposed site for public use cabin, Tonsina River corridor
14B	Mostly state Some state- Native selections	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry except Greyling Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	
14C	State - Tonsina Lake	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land leases Land offerings	Includes state land under Tonsina Lake
14D	State	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-97

ACE 6329489

**LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 14 Tonsina Lake
(Page 2 of 2)**

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
14E	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Heritage resources	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
14F	State	Recreation site, Squirrel Creek		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Existing Squirrel Creek State Recreation Site

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-98

ACE 6329490

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 14 - Tonsina Lake (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	14A	14B	14C	14D
Fish	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	moderate conif. and decid.	low	N/A	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low	outside of known mineral terraces	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	very high along Tonsina Lake and River, hiking	high along Tonsina Lake and river	high	low
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	none ident.	existing site & potential area
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low to moderate	N/A	low to moderate
Transportation	boats upstream and floatplanes to lake	floatplanes to lake	Tonsina Lake is navigable; floatplanes	none ident.
Wildlife	A-2, B-2, and A-1 habitats	B-2 habitat, some swan nesting and staging areas	A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat - moose

Important trails:

Subunit 14A: Tonsina Lake Trails (3) from Tonsina to Tonsina Lake

Road to gravel pit and trail south of river reserved via easement across Chugach Alaska lands

Squaw Creek Trail from Richardson Hwy. to Tonsina Lake via Quartz Creek or Hurtle Creek historic trail

Subunit 14D: Tonsina Lake Trail

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 14 - Tonsina Lake (page 2 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	14E	14F
Fish	salmon - s	salmon - s
Forestry	low	N/A
Historic-Cultural	old mining settlements - Quartz, Bear Creeks	unknown
Minerals	moderate - old chromium mine	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	moderate - hiking	existing rec site at Squirrel Creek, put-in - take-out site for Tonsina River float trips
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	unsuitable	moderate
Transportation	none ident.	Richardson Hwy.; Tonsina airstrip
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

Important trails:

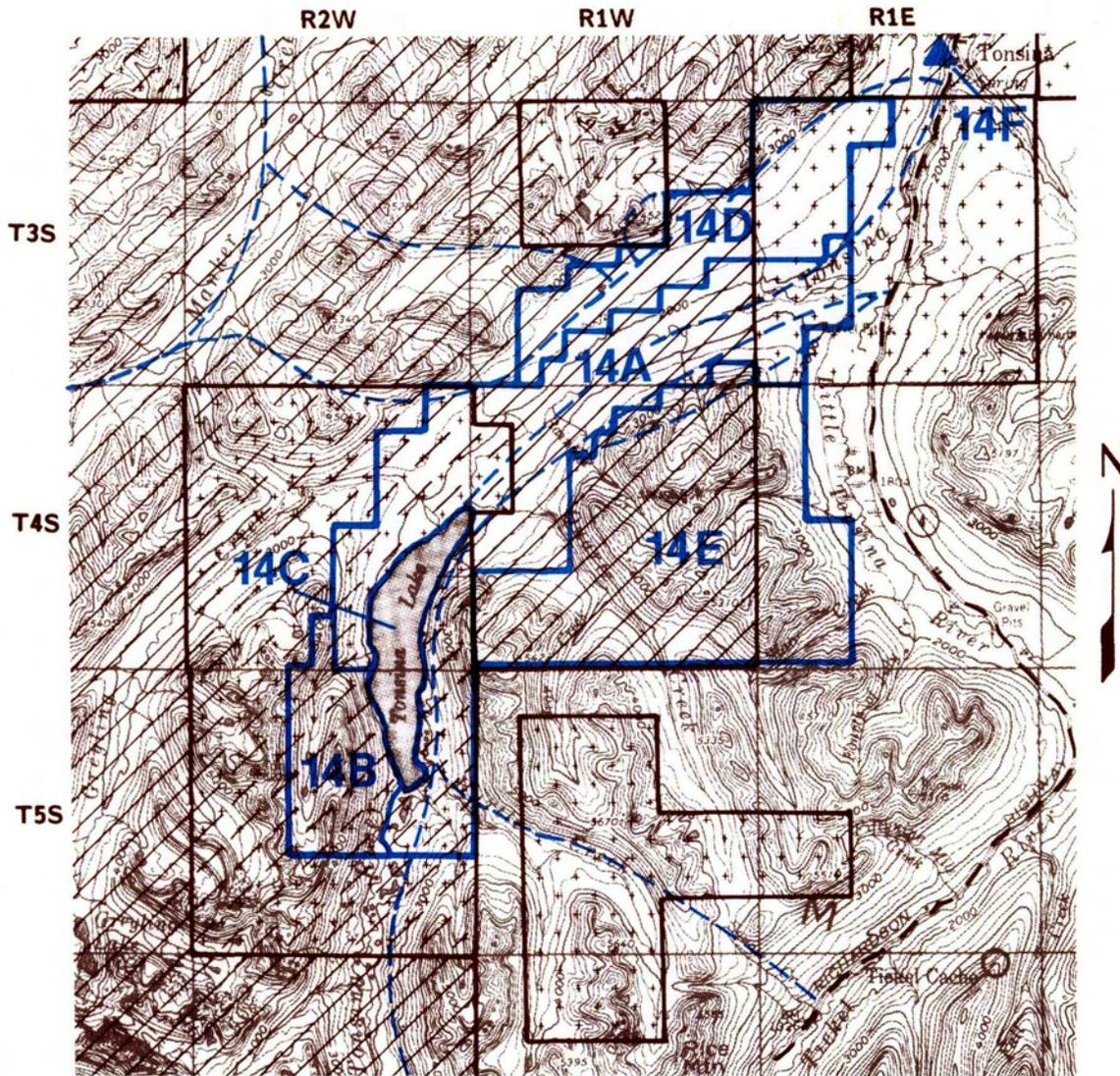
Subunit 14E: Tonsina Lake Trail

Subunit 14F: Trail east of Pippin Lake

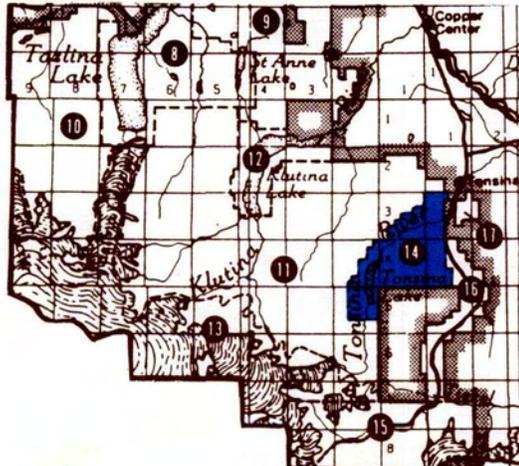
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 14

Tonsina Lake



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 15: Thompson Pass

Background

This unit includes state land at Thompson Pass, Worthington Glacier and the Tsina Valley. It also includes land in the Tsina Valley and Mt. Billy Mitchell area which is in federal (Bureau of Land Management) ownership.

The unit includes mountain peaks, glaciers, and the deep glacier-carved valley of the Tsina River. The Richardson Highway runs through the Tsina Valley and over Thompson Pass. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Copper Valley - Valdez electric intertie, and a proposed route for a Prudhoe Bay - Valdez gas line parallel the road. The entire area has spectacular alpine scenery. Worthington Glacier is the most accessible glacier in Alaska and the most visited tourist site in the basin. Summer recreation activities such as climbing, hiking, and camping are popular; in the winter, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, and snowmobiling are popular. DPOR manages a wayside at Worthington Glacier and a campground at Blueberry Lake. The pass receives the heaviest average (measured) snowfall in Alaska, and the area is prone to powerful avalanches. The Tsina River and adjacent corridor has potential for floating and boating, although parts of the river pass through major canyons. The Tsina Valley is also very prone to avalanches.

Management Intent

The management unit should be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities. A corridor for future transportation and utility routes will be retained through the area. If the Tielke River route is selected for the Copper River Highway to Cordova, it may be built across state land in this unit. Certain recreation activities (particularly winter recreation and off-road vehicle use) also need, or soon will need, more active management for public safety and for avoiding conflicts between users. To provide more active recreation management, DPOR and the DLWM should enter into a cooperative agreement to give DPOR authority to construct and manage recreation facilities and manage visitor activities in the area. DPOR will review all land use activities proposed for this area.

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating the Thompson Pass area for long-term retention by the state, management in accordance with this plan, and appropriate funding. This area would be suitable for designation as a state recreation area. Establishment of a legislatively designated area and subsequent development of visitor facilities in the area would encourage visitors to spend more time in the area, which would help the local economy. An advisory group of local residents should be formed by DPOR to develop the legislative recommendations. The advisory group should recommend final boundaries and propose management for the area. The group should also evaluate areas south of Thompson Pass (in the Prince William Sound planning area) for inclusion in any legislative designation.

The TAPS and the Richardson Highway corridor (approximately 1-mile wide) will be closed to new mineral location to protect future transportation options and public recreation opportunities. The TAPS right-of-way is already closed to mineral location. Although the plan does not recommend administrative mineral closures for any other state land in the Thompson Pass area, the state legislature may wish to consider closing areas included in a legislative designation.

Timber harvest is allowed in the area for salvage, disease control, and other forest management that is consistent with maintaining public recreation values. Any

legislative designation should allow for such activity, primarily along the Tiekel River.

Land in subunit 15B, located southeast of the Tsina River, should be selected by the state and managed as part of this unit. This land is an isolated tract of federal land that is outside the Chugach National Forest boundary and would be inefficient for the federal BLM to manage. It also drains into subunit 15A and could be managed along with that subunit.

Management Guidelines

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership for material sites.

Scenic Values. All development along the Richardson Highway corridor should be sited and designed to minimize impacts on views from the highway.

Transportation and Utilities. Future transportation and utility lines are allowed through this unit. Provisions should be made for these purposes in any legislative designation. Only essential facilities needed to support transportation and utility uses in this unit should be allowed to protect the recreation and scenic resources of the pass. Supportive operations that can be located outside the unit, such as gas stations, are not allowed.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Subsurface and materials
- Transportation
- Trail management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 15 Thompson Pass

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
15A	State, BLM	Public recreation	Sand and gravel, Transportation corridor, Forestry along Tiekel River	Highway-TAPS corridor closed to entry; remainder open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Grazing	Recommended legislative designation, Select federal (BLM) land
15B	BLM	Resource management, low value	Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Select this federal (BLM) land to consolidate land ownership

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 15 - Thompson Pass

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	15A	15B
Fish	none documented	unsurveyed
Forestry	high w/some moderate decid. and conif. only in Tiekel Valley, otherwise few trees	no trees
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	very high; hiking, winter sports, very scenic, Worthington Glacier, campsite at Blueberry Lake	low
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential areas	none identified
Settlement Suitability	unsuitable	unsuitable
Transportation	Richardson Hwy., airstrip at Worthington Glacier, Trans-Alaska Pipeline .	none identified
Wildlife	unrated, C habitat	unrated

=====
Important trails:

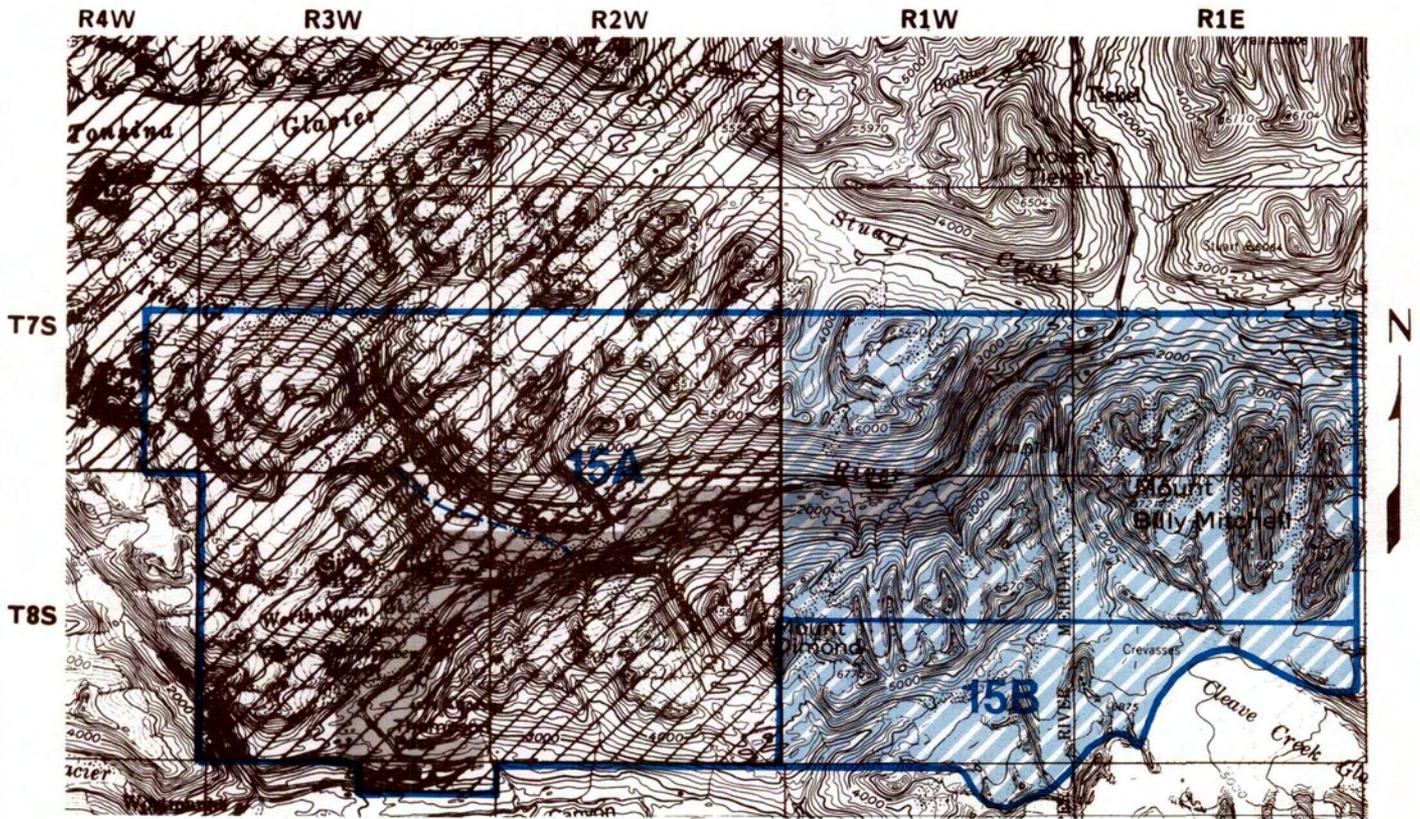
Subunit 15A: Trail from Richardson Hwy., Ptarmigan, up Tsina Valley.

Notes: Thompson Pass has been identified as a potential state park or state recreation area. Potential future gas line corridor.

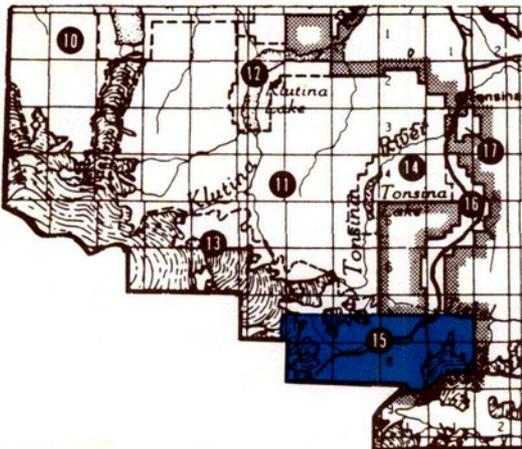
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 15

Thompson Pass



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

- State Owned
- State Selected
- Native/Private Owned
- Native Selected
- Federal
- Proposed State Selections
- Closed to New Mineral Entry
- Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 16: Tiegel/Richardson

Background

This management unit includes the land along the Richardson Highway - Trans-Alaska Pipeline Utility Corridor from Tonsina to the Tsina River. The entire unit (except two small recreation sites) is federal (BLM) land that the state will select. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior will need to revoke Public Land Order (PLO) 5150 to allow the state to receive this land. The state has requested that this federal withdrawal be revoked.

In addition to serving as one of Alaska's most important transportation routes, the area is also used for recreation, has some forestry values, and provides access to adjacent lands for hunting, hiking, and trapping. The road through the area follows the Little Tonsina and Tiegel Rivers and is very scenic. The spruce bark beetle has infested and killed many of the trees in this area.

Management Intent

Land that the state selects and acquires in this area will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on transportation, recreation, forestry, and settlement. The area will be opened to mineral entry (under BLM, most of this area is closed by PLO 5150) except the pipeline right-of-way. Little Tonsina River will be closed to new mineral entry to protect salmon spawning and rearing areas and recreation values. The state should not select all land in the Tiegel Block as a condition of receiving title to these lands proposed for selection.

Up to 500 acres (net) of settlement land will be offered for private ownership if the state receives title to land in this unit. Areas offered for settlement will be carefully located to avoid harming views from the highway. Land in avalanche chutes and run-outs will not be transferred to private ownership through land offerings. DOT/PF will also be consulted in decisions regarding land sales to minimize impacts on traffic flow and avoid safety hazards caused by the location of access roads for land offerings. Because of these potential hazards, most suitable settlement land will be found in the northern part of this management unit.

The existing state recreation site at Little Tonsina and rest area at Mount Billy Mitchell will be retained in public ownership and managed as state recreation sites.

Management Guidelines

Trails and Access to Federal Land. The state will reserve access to federal lands through areas proposed for land offerings consistent with the guidelines in Chapter 2 of this plan.

Potential Gas Line Corridor. A route for the Yukon-Pacific natural gas line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez is proposed through this unit. The route roughly parallels the TAPS line. A corridor 600 feet wide on both sides of the TAPS line should be reserved in state ownership for a possible future gas line until a more specific route is established.

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership for material sites.

Scenic Values. All development along the Richardson Highway corridor should be located and designed to minimize impacts on views from the highway. The planning

process for future land offerings in this area will identify and protect the scenic resources.

Trails. The Squaw Creek Trail to Tonsina Lake, an old mining trail, is used to access hunting, fishing, and recreation areas. An easement through T. 5 S., R. 1 W. should be reserved if Native selections are approved. The trailhead on the Richardson Highway should be marked.

Avalanche Zones. Land leases for permanent facilities and all land offerings will exclude areas identified as avalanche chutes or run-out areas on DOT/PF and DNR-Division of Mining and Geological and Geophysical Surveys' inventories of avalanche zones.

Highway Access for Land Offerings. DNR will coordinate with DOT/PF to minimize the impacts of land offerings on traffic flow and safety along the Richardson Highway.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 16 Tiekel/Richardson

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
16A	Federal-BLM	Forestry Settlement Transportation	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Open except TAPS corridor	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	State will make selection. Estimated net land offering 500 acres
16B	Federal-BLM	Recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land leases Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Existing Mount Billy Mitchell rest area
16C	State	Recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land leases Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Existing Little Tonsina state recreation site

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-111

ACE 6329501

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 16 - Tiekel-Richardson

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	16A	16B	16C
Fish	salmon - s/r/m	N/A	salmon
Forestry	moderate conif., serious bark beetle infestation	N/A	N/A
Historic-Cultural	WOMCAT telegraph trail	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high scenic values along Tiekel River	existing rest area (Mt. Billy Mitchell)	existing rec. site (Little Tonsina)
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential areas	none ident.	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	moderate areas in north; other areas low to moderate	high	high
Transportation	Richardson Hwy., TAPS line		Richardson Hwy. Richardson Hwy.
Wildlife	moose, brown bear, black bear	moose, brown bear, black bear	moose, brown bear, black bear

Important trails:

16A: Several public crossings of TAPS line

Stuart Creek trail at Stuart Creek on Richardson Hwy.

Squaw Creek Trail on Richardson Hwy.

Bernard Creek trail from Tonsina to Bernard Creek on Richardson Hwy.

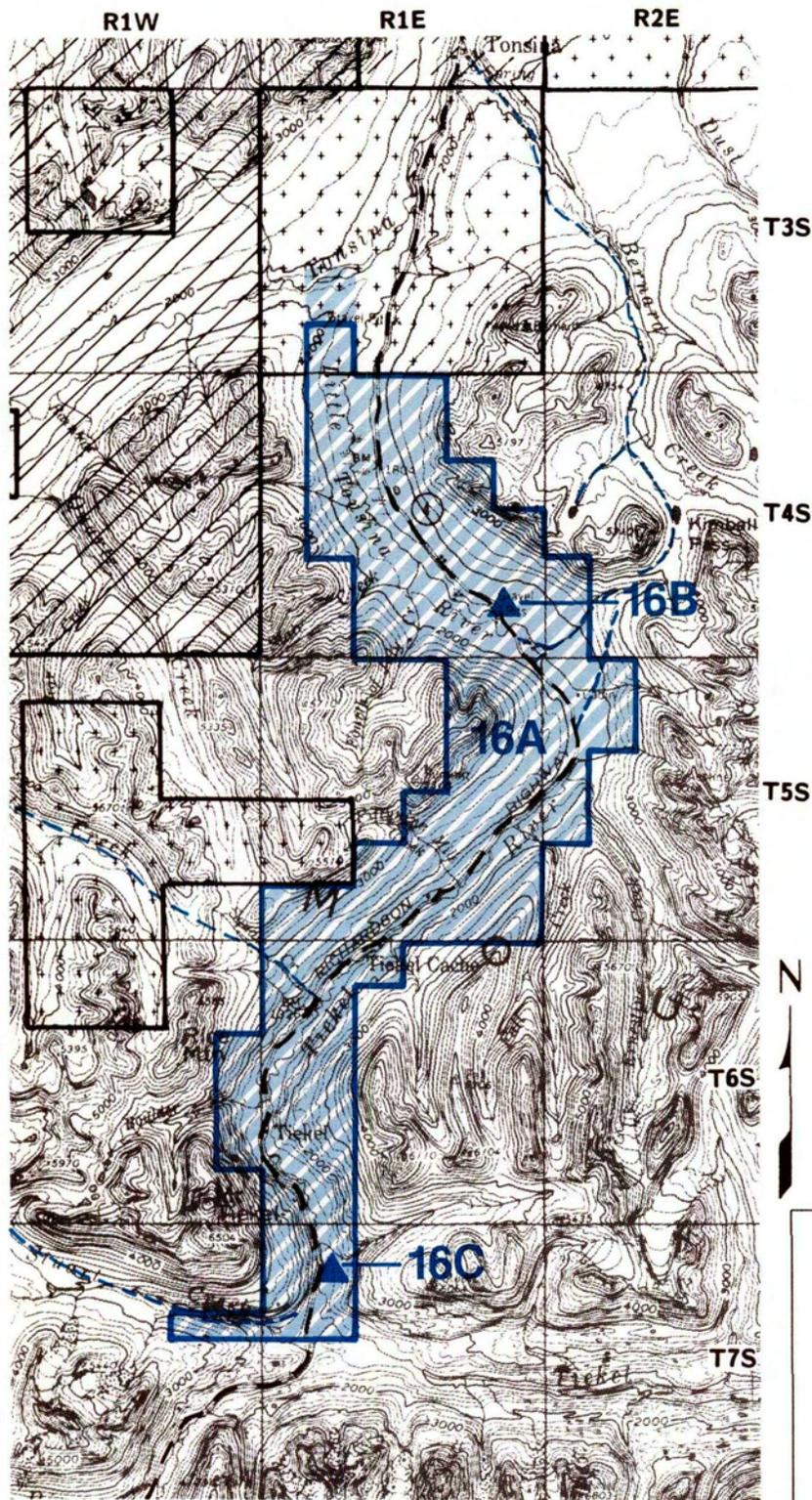
Notes: Tiekel River Fisheries: BLM and ADF&G are working to introduce silver salmon into the Tiekel River

Valley narrows to the south; some areas prone to avalanches

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 16

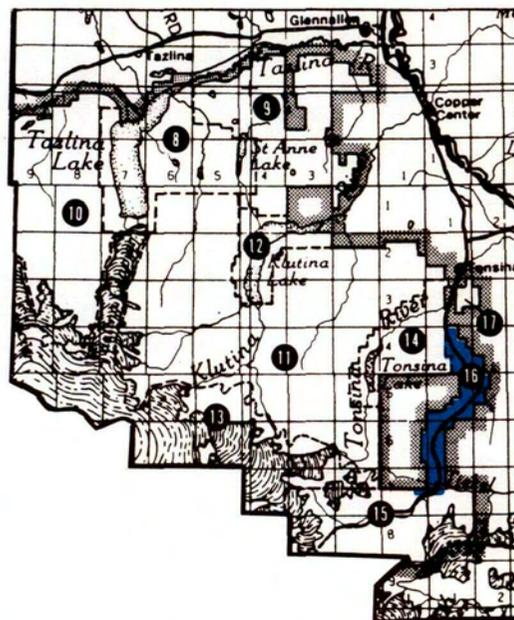
Tiegel/Richardson



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

Location Map



-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 17: Tonsina Plateau

Background

This management unit is a 10-square-mile tract of federal (BLM) land that the state should select. The land is a relatively flat plateau about 400 feet higher than the Tonsina River. An old road that runs through the area is in good condition from the south, but virtually impassible from the north. The trail up Bernard Creek towards Kimball Pass is important for hunters and hikers.

Management Intent

The state will select this land and offer approximately 2,000 acres for private ownership. Remaining state land will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on forestry, public recreation, and wildlife habitat. The Bernard Creek valley (management subunit 17B) will be retained in state ownership for multiple use and to ensure access along the Kimball Pass trail. Most of the area will become open to mineral entry except Bernard Creek, which would be closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning areas. Land offerings will be closed to mineral entry before disposal. Land closer to the road should be offered for private ownership before more remote parcels because the land is within the Tonsina walk-in area, which is closed to use of vehicles for hunting.

Management Guidelines

Bernard Creek - Kimball Pass Trail. This trail will be retained in state ownership. It is used by hunters (particularly for goat and sheep hunting), hikers, cross country skiers, and snowmobilers. Part of the trail lies across Chugach Alaska, Inc., land. This portion of the trail has been reserved for public use by a 17(b) easement and should be clearly signed.

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Bernard Creek will be closed to mineral location.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Public access
- Trail management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 17 - Tonsina Plateau

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
17A	Federal-BLM	Settlement	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Open, except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins, Trapping cabins in land offering	State will make selection. Estimated net land offering of 2000 acres
17B	Federal-BLM	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except Bernard Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	State will select

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-116

ACE 6329505

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 17 - Tonsina Plateau

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	17A	17B
Fish	none docum.	salmon - s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	moderate conif.	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	WOMCAT telegraph trail in area	historic trail
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high for Kimball Pass trail	high for Kimball Pass trail
Settlement Suitability	moderate to high	low; unsuitable
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

Important trails:

Subunit 17A: Old road passes through western part of subunit 17A; road impassable at north end, but in good condition from south; leaves Richardson Hwy. at Milepost 75.

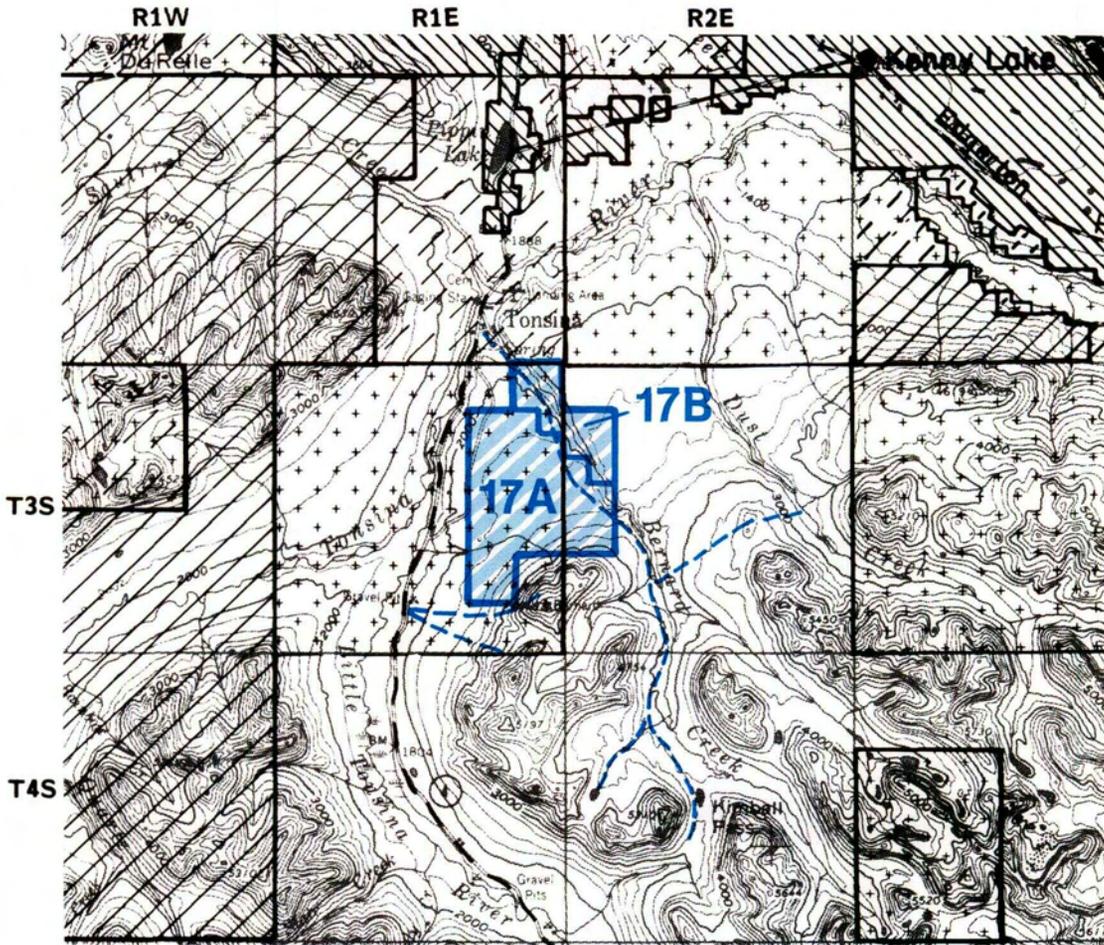
Reserved via 17(b) easement across Chugach Alaska lands from the south end.

Subunit 17B: Bernard Creek - Kimball Pass trail; reserved via easement across Chugach Alaska land. Used by hunters, hikers, snowmachiners, and skiers.

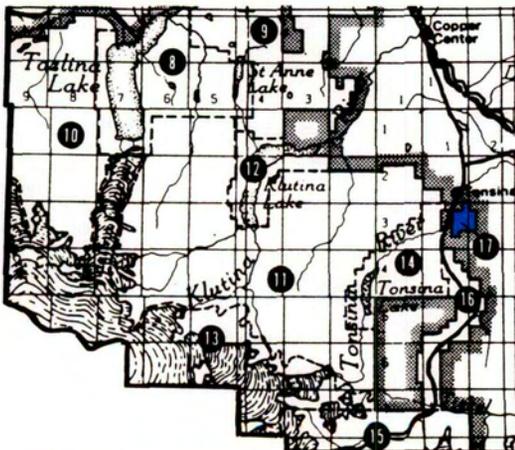
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 17

Tonsina Plateau



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 18: Lower Tonsina - Edgerton Highway

Background

This management unit includes state-selected and state-owned land along the Edgerton Highway and the Lower Tonsina River. The land on the north side of the Tonsina River has forestry, wildlife, and some settlement values. Land along and south of the Tonsina River has wildlife, recreation, and forestry values. The Tonsina River is becoming an increasingly popular river for floating from the Richardson Highway at Squirrel Creek to the Edgerton Highway bridge just above the confluence with the Copper River. Parts of the river have Class III whitewater. BLM has determined that the Tonsina River is probably not navigable (as legally defined for ownership) in this unit except near its confluence with the Copper River.

Management Intent

The management intent for the entire unit is to manage land for multiple use. How state land is managed will be determined by what land the state eventually acquires in the unit, because most of the land has conflicting selections attached to it. Land that the state acquires along the Edgerton Highway (subunit 18A) should be managed for settlement. Land acquired to the north of the highway (subunit 18B) is designated 'Resource Management-High' because of agricultural, habitat, and forestry values and uncertain ownership. Any land that the state acquires along the Tonsina River (subunits 18C and 18D) will be managed to protect high public recreation, wildlife habitat, and forestry values. Along the Tonsina River, a campground for river floaters and a public access point at the Edgerton Highway bridge should be reserved if the state acquires title to land suitable for these uses. Management subunit 18E is a narrow strip of land with conflicting selections that may be offered for agriculture if the state receives title.

Land in T. 2 S., R. 2 E., CRM, is currently Native selected, but not state selected. The state should file selections over Native selections to acquire land not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc. If the state is able to make selections here, up to 1,000 net acres in subunit 18A would be offered for settlement.

Management subunit 18F is the existing Liberty Falls campground managed by DPOR. The falls is a unique and scenic natural feature. This 10-acre site will continue to be managed as a recreation site. The state does not own any additional land near this site.

Land acquired by the state will be open to mineral entry. However, if the state acquires any land along Dust Creek, the creek and land within 200 feet of the creek will be closed to mineral entry to protect salmon spawning habitat.

Management Guidelines

Access to Forest Lands. Access from the Edgerton Highway to forest lands behind any land offering should be retained. This access, to allow for log hauling, should be located on firm ground and should not be immediately adjacent to private parcels.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

Fish and wildlife habitat
Forestry
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 18 - Lower Tonsina/Edgerton
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
18A	Native selected	Settlement	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Open to mineral entry, except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	State should select land. Estimated net land offering 1,000 acres
18B	State and Native selected	Resource management, high value		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Agriculture, Forestry, Wildlife values
18C	Native selected	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry, except Dust Creek (if state owned)	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	State should select land in Tonsina River corridor
18D	State, State-Native selected	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-123

ACE 6329510

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 18 - Lower Tonsina/Edgerton
(Page 2 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
18E	State, Native selected	Agriculture		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	
18F	State	State recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Liberty Falls-existing recreation site

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-124

ACE 6329511

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 18 - Lower Tonsina - Edgerton (Page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	18A	18B	18C	18D
Agriculture	class 3 & 4 soils	class 3 & 4 soils	class 3 & 4 soils	no info available
Fish	none docum.	none docum.	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m
Forestry	moderate decid.	moderate conif. and decid.	high to moderate conif. & decid.	high to moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	high in area of the confl. of Tonsina and Copper River
Minerals	low	low	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	low	low	high along Tonsina River; rafting, kayaking	high along Tonsina River; rafting, kayaking
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	existing site	existing site
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low	low	low; unsuitable
Transportation	Edgerton Hwy.	near Edgerton Hwy.	Edgerton Hwy.	Edgerton Hwy.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat - moose

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

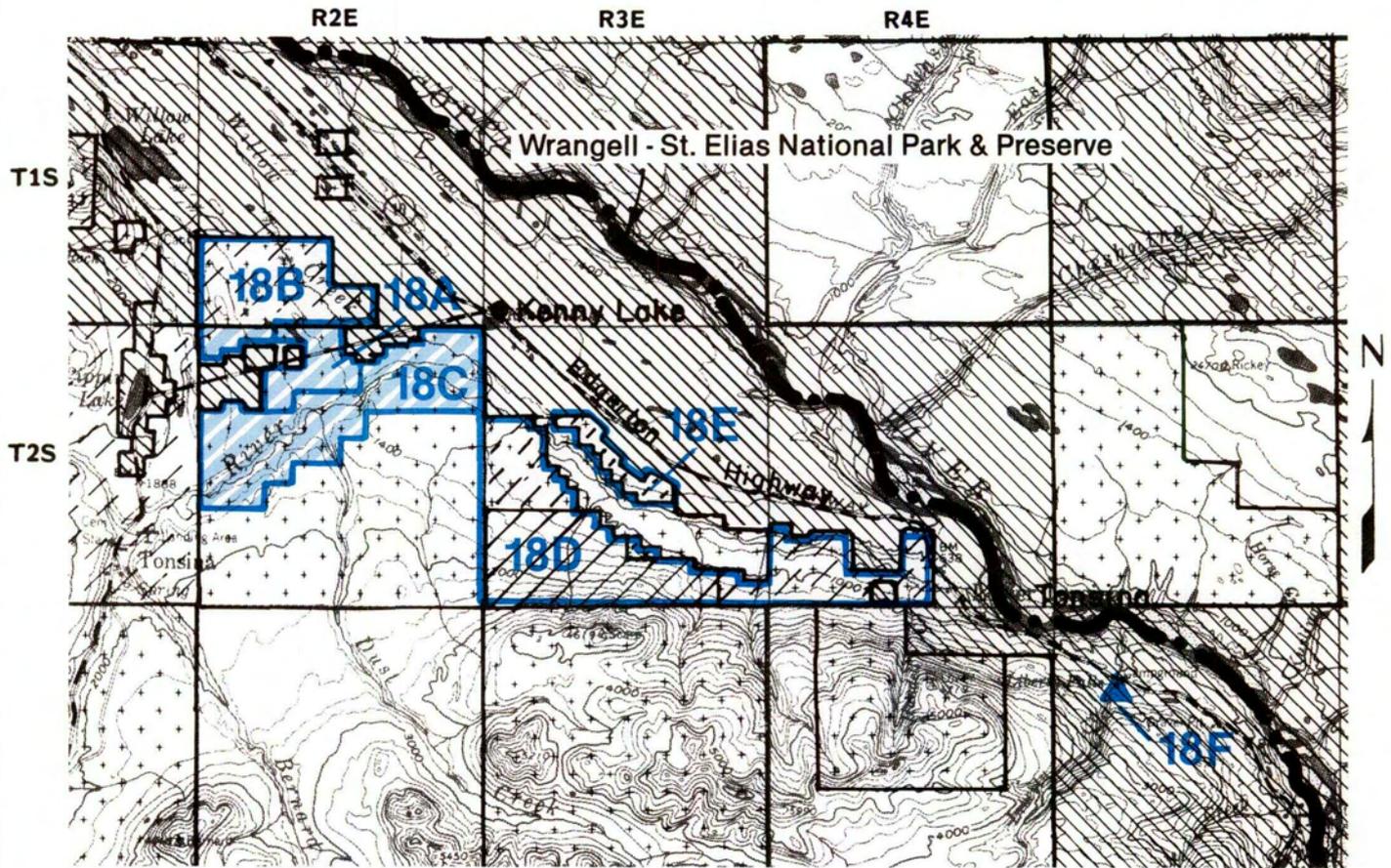
Management Unit 18 - Lower Tonsina - Edgerton (Page 2 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	18E	18F
Agriculture	class 3 & 4 soils	N/A
Fish	none documented	none documented
Forestry	high coniferous	not rated
Historic-Cultural	unknown	Liberty Falls
Minerals	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	low	high for Liberty Falls Wayside; camping, picnicking
Sand and Gravel	none identified	none identified
Settlement Suitability	moderate	N/A
Transportation	near Edgerton Hwy.	Edgerton Hwy.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - moose	A-2 habitat - moose

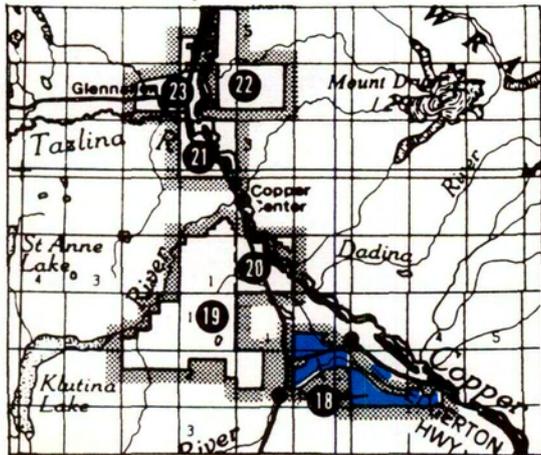
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 18

Lower Tonsina/Edgerton



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections

MANAGEMENT UNIT 19: Squirrel Creek - Mount DuRelle

Background

This unit is the large block of state-owned and state-selected land that lies between the Klutina River and the Richardson Highway. State selected lands are also selected by Ahtna, Inc. Much of the area is forested. Management subunits 19C and 19D have particularly good tree cover and have soils with potential for agriculture.

Management Intent

Management Subunit 19A. The state will offer up to 500 acres of land for private ownership in this subunit. This area has good tree cover and reasonably good trail access from the Richardson Highway. Due to extensive winter shadows, this area is more suitable for recreational cabins than year-round settlement. The Squirrel Creek trail will be kept in public ownership because it provides important access for hunting, recreation, and future forestry uses.

Management Subunit 19B. This large block of partially forested land will be retained in public ownership for multiple use. Primary surface values are forestry, recreation, and wildlife habitat. The area also receives some recreational use because it is high, open country good for cross country skiing and snowmobiling. This subunit will be open to mineral entry.

Management Subunit 19C. Most of this land has conflicting state and Native land selections. The land has fairly high values for forestry, agriculture, and settlement. State-owned or state-selected tracts will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. If the state is successful in acquiring sufficient, suitable land in the subunit, approximately 500 acres (net) would be available for agricultural or nonagricultural settlement. Any state-owned land will be open to mineral entry.

Management Subunit 19D. This small block of land is state owned and has agricultural, forestry, and settlement values. It is available for a mixture of agricultural and nonagricultural settlement. Approximately 1,000 acres (net) will be available for settlement or agriculture. Existing access to the area is by a 25-foot-wide 17(b) easement. Before offering the area for land conveyances, the state should provide a route for adequate access to accommodate agricultural or settlement uses. Access via section line easements may also be a possibility.

Management Guidelines

Squirrel Creek Trail. This trail provides access for recreation and hunting and will be retained in public ownership. The trail could also provide access for future timber harvest in the area.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Settlement
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 19 - Squirrel Creek/Mount DuRelle

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
19A	State	Settlement	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Open to mineral entry except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins in land offering	Potential net land offerings - 500 acres
19B	State, State-Native selected	Forestry, Wildlife habitat	Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
19C	State, State-Native selected	Resource management, high value	Agriculture Forestry Settlement	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Possible net land offerings - 500 acres
19D	State	Agriculture, Settlement	Forestry	Open to mineral entry except disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Potential net land offerings - 1,000 acres

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-130

ACE 6329516

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 19 - Squirrel Creek - Mount DuRelle

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	19A	19B	19C	19D
Fish	none docum.	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	none docum.	none docum.
Forestry	moderate conif. & decid.	high to mod- erate conif. & decid.	high to mod- erate conif.	high to moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	high at Mount DuRelle lake; low in other areas	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	low	low	unknown
Recreation	low	moderate; scenic, high country	moderate; scenic, high country	low
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	variable	low	low to moderate
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat, some swan nesting habitat	B-2 habitat, some swan nesting habitat

Important trails:

Subunit 19A and 19B: Squirrel Creek trail, easement reserved from Richardson Hwy. in
Sec. 26, T2S, R1E across Chugach Alaska lands

Trail from Richardson Hwy. to Willow Mtn, Stuck Mtn., and north side of Mt. DuRelle

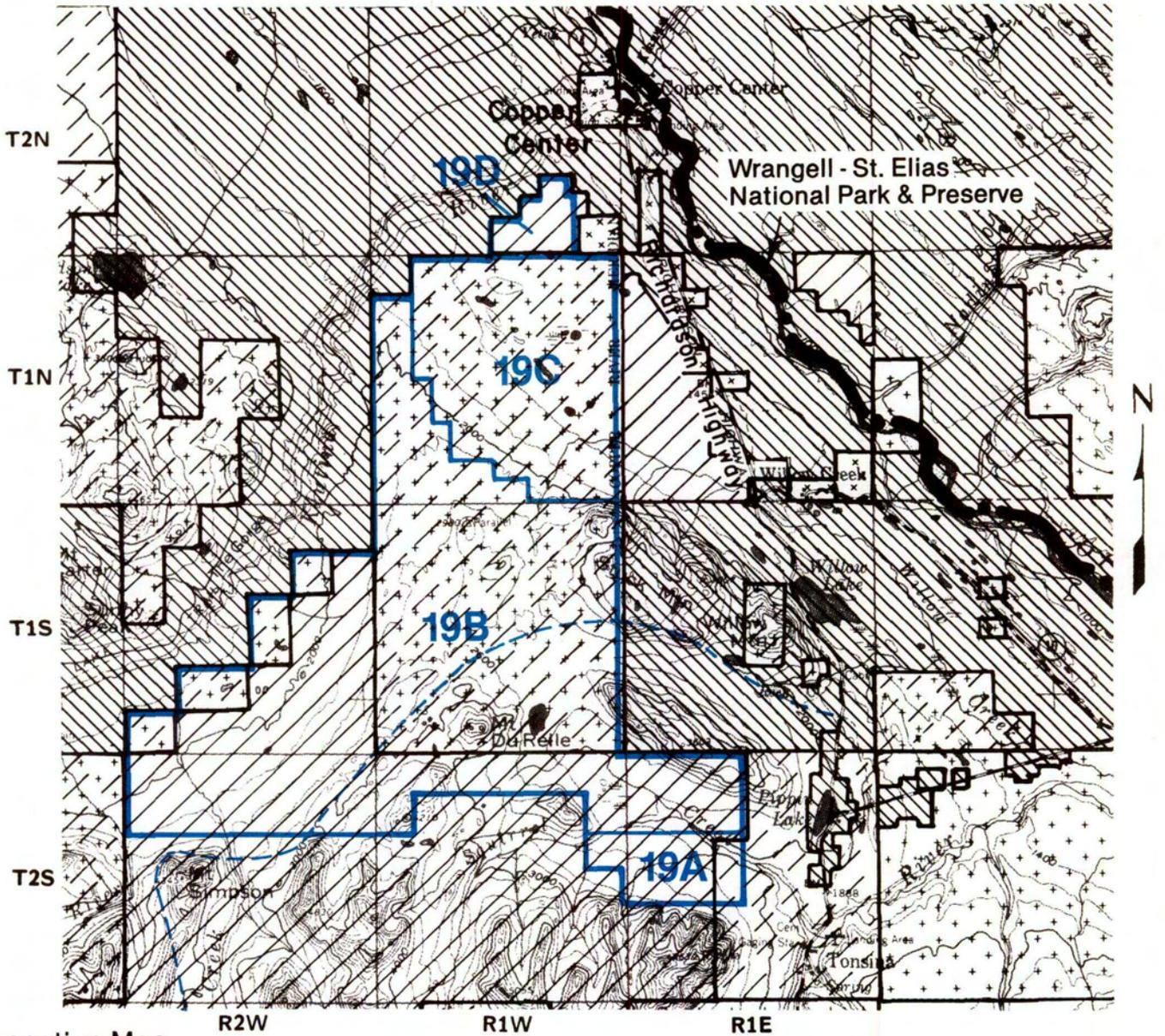
Subunit 19D: 17(b) easement from Copper Center

Section line easement reportedly provides access

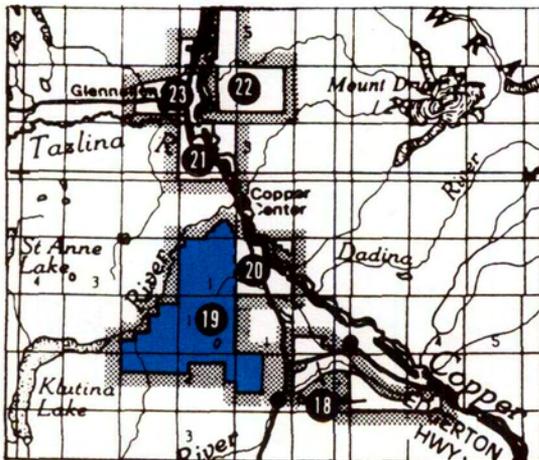
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources,
see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 19

Squirrel Creek/Mt. DuRelle



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 20: Willow Creek

Background

This unit consists of state-owned land in two large blocks, one west of the TAPS line and the other across the Copper River. Various small tracts of state land are located between the pipeline and Copper River.

Management Intent

Management Subunit 20A (Tonsina North). This unit is state land west of the pipeline. It has potential for agricultural development and settlement and has been subdivided for land offering. An access road must be constructed across the pipeline before offering the land for either use. Partial funding for this road was allocated in the 1986 state legislative session. The area south of Willow Creek has not been subdivided and should be offered under the state's agricultural programs (agricultural homesteads or small tracts). Land along Willow Creek should be retained in public ownership (see p. 2-46). Lots in the subdivided area that have soils classified by the Soil Conservation Service as Class IV soils should be offered under the agricultural programs. Remaining lots should be offered under the nonagricultural settlement programs. Estimated total agricultural and settlement offerings are 4,000 acres net.

Management Subunit 20B. This subunit consists of a few past state land offerings. Unsold lots previously offered for sale or lots that revert to state ownership (for example, through foreclosure) can be reoffered for private ownership. The remaining small parcels previously classified for retention in public ownership will not be changed and will be managed under the guidelines in this plan.

Management Subunit 20C. This subunit is a block of state-owned land east of the Copper River, near the Nadina River, and within the boundary of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Preserve. The land has potential for forestry, agriculture, and settlement. It is also habitat for buffalo and moose. The land is not easily accessible because it lies across the river from the road. Legal access from the river is via a 25-foot 17(b) easement reserved across Ahtna, Inc., land. Feasibility of easements along section lines is uncertain due to topography. Due to its remote location, the land will be retained in public ownership for multiple use and will remain open to mineral entry. The land should be reevaluated for more active management or a land offering in the future.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 20 - Willow Creek

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
20A	State	Agriculture, Settlement	Forestry	Disposal area closed before offering; some parts already closed	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Estimated net agricultural and settlement land offerings - 4,000 acres
20B	Mixed - State and past land offerings	Agriculture, Settlement	Forestry Wildlife habitat	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Past land offerings
20C	State	Resource management, high value		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	East of the Copper River

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329520

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 20 - Willow Creek

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	20A	20B	20C
Agriculture	low (w/some moderate)	unsuitable	high
Fish	none docum.	salmon, s/r/m steelhead mod.	none docum.
Forestry	moderate conif. & decid.	conif., scattered	high
Historic-Cultural	high	high	high
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low
Recreation	high along Willow Cr.	high along Willow Cr.	low
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	existing site	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	moderate	past land sales	moderate to high
Transportation	across pipeline from Richardson Hwy.	Richardson Hwy.	none ident.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat - moose	A-2 habitat

Important trails:

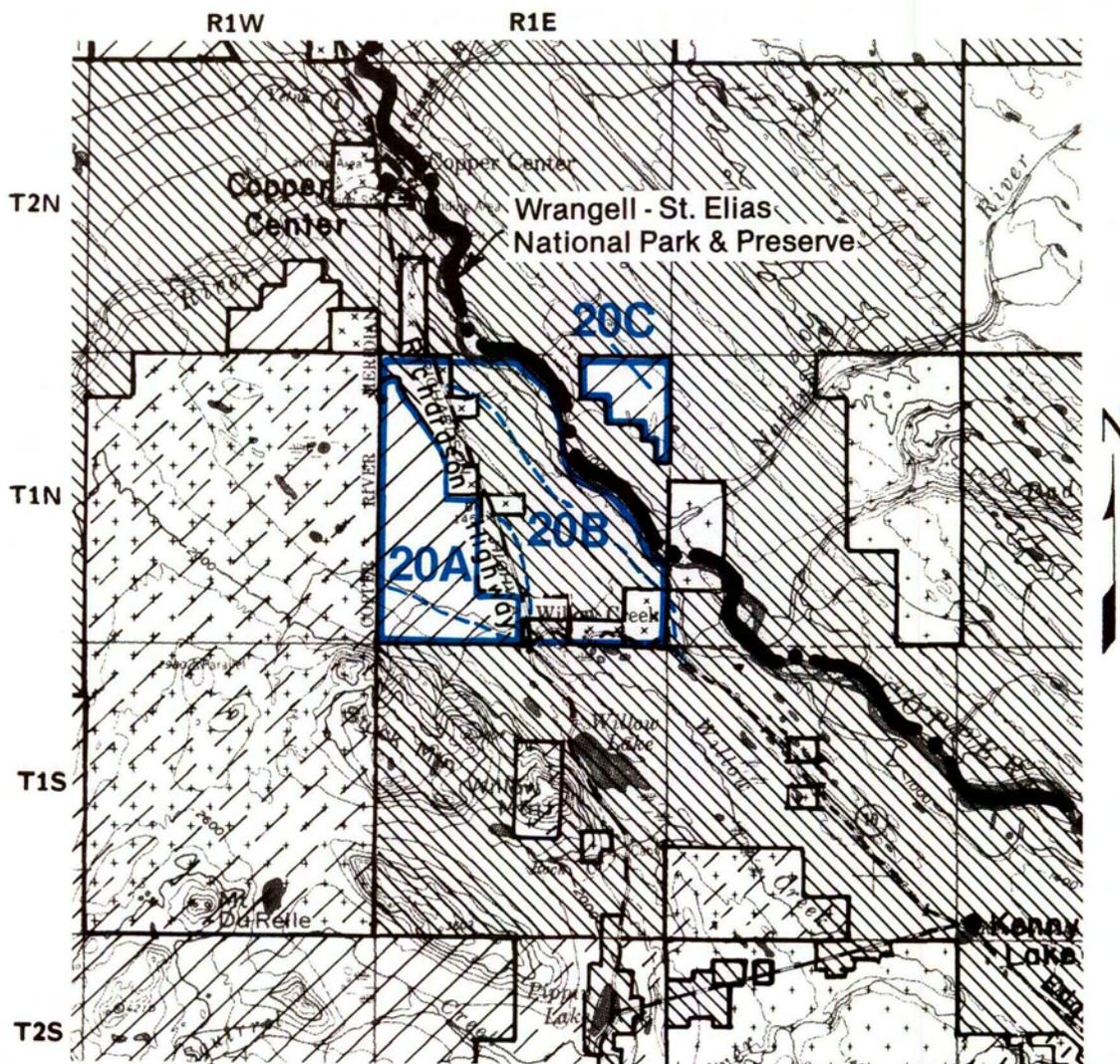
Subunit 20A: Trail from Willow Creek due east

Subunit 20C: 17(b) easement from Nadina River to southern boundary of subunit

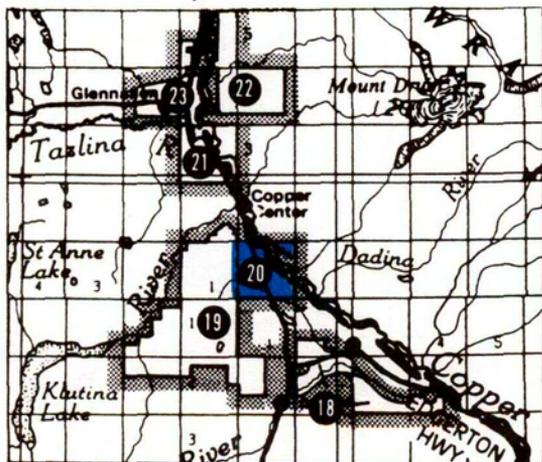
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 20

Willow Creek



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 21: Tazlina

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land near Tazlina. Management subunit 21A lies west of the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Management subunit 21C includes numerous past state land offerings. Subunit 21D lies east of the Copper River and is within the boundary of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Preserve.

Management Intent

Management Subunit 21A. This area may be offered for private ownership under agricultural homestead or small project agriculture programs. If all or part of the area is not suitable for agriculture, land can be offered under the nonagricultural settlement programs. The land offering will require that public access across the pipeline be allowed and a suitable crossing constructed. Estimated net land offering in subunit 21A would be 3,000 acres.

Management Subunit 21B. The state land along the Tazlina River will be retained in public ownership for multiple use. Primary surface uses to be managed for are public recreation, wildlife habitat, and forestry. Most of the subunit will remain open to mineral entry except the TAPS line right-of-way.

Management Subunit 21C. This subunit includes areas of past state land offerings. Lots that were previously offered, but are unsold, or lots that revert to state ownership (such as through foreclosure) can be reoffered for private ownership. The remaining small parcels previously classified for retention will not change and will be managed according to the guidelines of the Copper River Basin Area Plan.

Management Unit 21D. This subunit is state-owned land across the Copper River from Tazlina that will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. The area remains open to mineral entry. The land in this subunit has potential for agriculture, settlement, forestry, and wildlife habitat. Resource Management has been designated the subunit's primary use because of the difficulty of access across the river for any resource development and the lack of demand for these resources in the foreseeable future. Under this designation, the land will be retained and managed for multiple use in the near term and be evaluated for more intensive management or land offering in the future. Land adjacent to the Copper River will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation (including camping) and wildlife habitat. This is the largest of two parcels of public land that abut the Copper River from Indian River to below Chitina.

Management Guidelines

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits and areas identified on the management unit map as having high potential will be retained in public ownership.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Agriculture
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 21 - Tazlina

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
21A	State	Agriculture	Forestry Settlement	Open to mineral entry, disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Estimated net land offerings - 3,000 acres
21B	State	Forestry, Public recreation, Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except TAPS right-of-way	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
21C	Past state disposals, private	Settlement	Forestry	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	
21D	State	Resource management, high value		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Across Copper River

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-142

ACE 6329524

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 21 - Tazlina

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	21A	21B	21C	21D
Agriculture	moderate	moderate	unsuitable	variable low - high
Fish	none docum.	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s
Forestry	high to moderate conif.	high to moderate conif.	high to moderate conif.	high
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	high at confluence of Tazlina & Copper Rivers	high in area of confluence of Tazlina & Copper Rivers
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	low	high at Tazlina River; floating	high along Copper River; floating	high along Copper River
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	existing site and potential areas	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low to moderate	variable	low, high
Transportation	none - west of TAPS line	Tazlina River, navigable	Tazlina River and Copper River navigable. Richardson Hwy.	land is east of Copper River, navigable
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	A-2 habitat - moose, caribou; B-1 - habitat	A-2 habitat - moose, caribou	A-2 habitat - moose, caribou; B-2 habitat

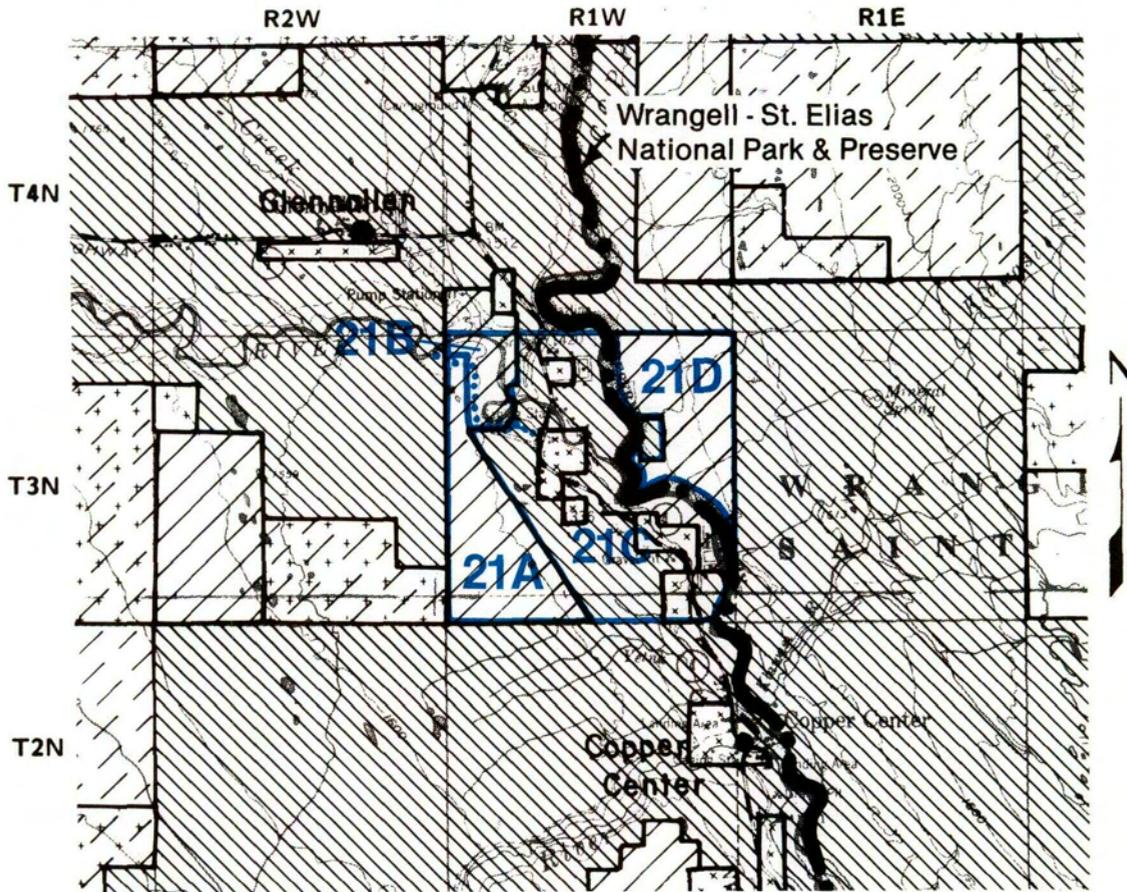
Important trails:

Subunit 21A and B: road [with 17(b) easement reserved] runs from Richardson Hwy. to TAPS line and Tazlina River; pipeline can only be crossed by snowmachines, pedestrians

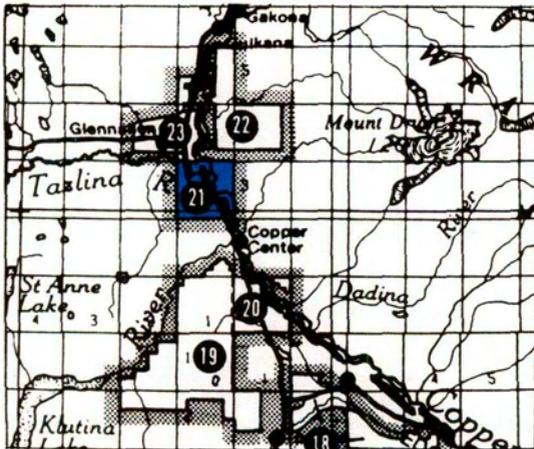
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 21

Tazlina



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Valdez
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 22: Mount Drum Bluffs

Background

This management unit consists of two tracts of state-owned and selected-land east of the Copper River. One tract is across from Glennallen and Gulkana; the other is north of the Sanford River. The land lies within the boundary of Wrangell - St. Elias National Preserve.

Management Intent

The entire unit should be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. The entire area remains open to mineral entry. Management subunit 22A has potential for agriculture, settlement, public recreation, forestry, and wildlife habitat. Resource Management has been designated the subunit's primary use due to the difficulty of access across the river for any resource development and the lack of demand for these resources in the foreseeable future. Under this designation, the land will be retained and managed for multiple use in the near term and be evaluated for more intensive management or land offering in the future. Land adjacent to the Copper River in T. 5 N., R. 1 W., Section 31, will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation (including camping) and wildlife habitat. This is one of two state-owned parcels of land that abuts the Copper River from Indian River to below Chitina.

Subunit 22B, if conveyed to the state, will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat and forestry and will be open to mineral entry. Subunit 22C, if conveyed to the state, will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat. This land also provides important access for hunting across the Copper River from Gakona.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 22 - Mount Drum Bluffs

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
22A	State	Resource management		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
22B	State selected	Forestry Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
22C	State, Native selected	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

3-148

ACE 6329528

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 22 - Mount Drum Bluffs

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	22A	22B	22C
Agriculture	low (w/some mod. & high)	unsuitable	unsuitable
Fish	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	none docum.	none identified
Forestry	high to mod conif. & decid.	high to mod conif. & decid.	mod. conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terrane	outside of known mineral terrane	outside of known mineral terrane
Oil and Gas	low	low	low
Recreation	high along low Copper River; floating	low	mod.
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low	low
Transportation	land is east of Copper River; navigable	none; land is east of Copper River	accessible by float or ski plan
Wildlife	B-2 habitat; B-1 habitat	B-2 habitat; B-1 habitat, some swan nesting habitat	B-1 habitat, access for hunting

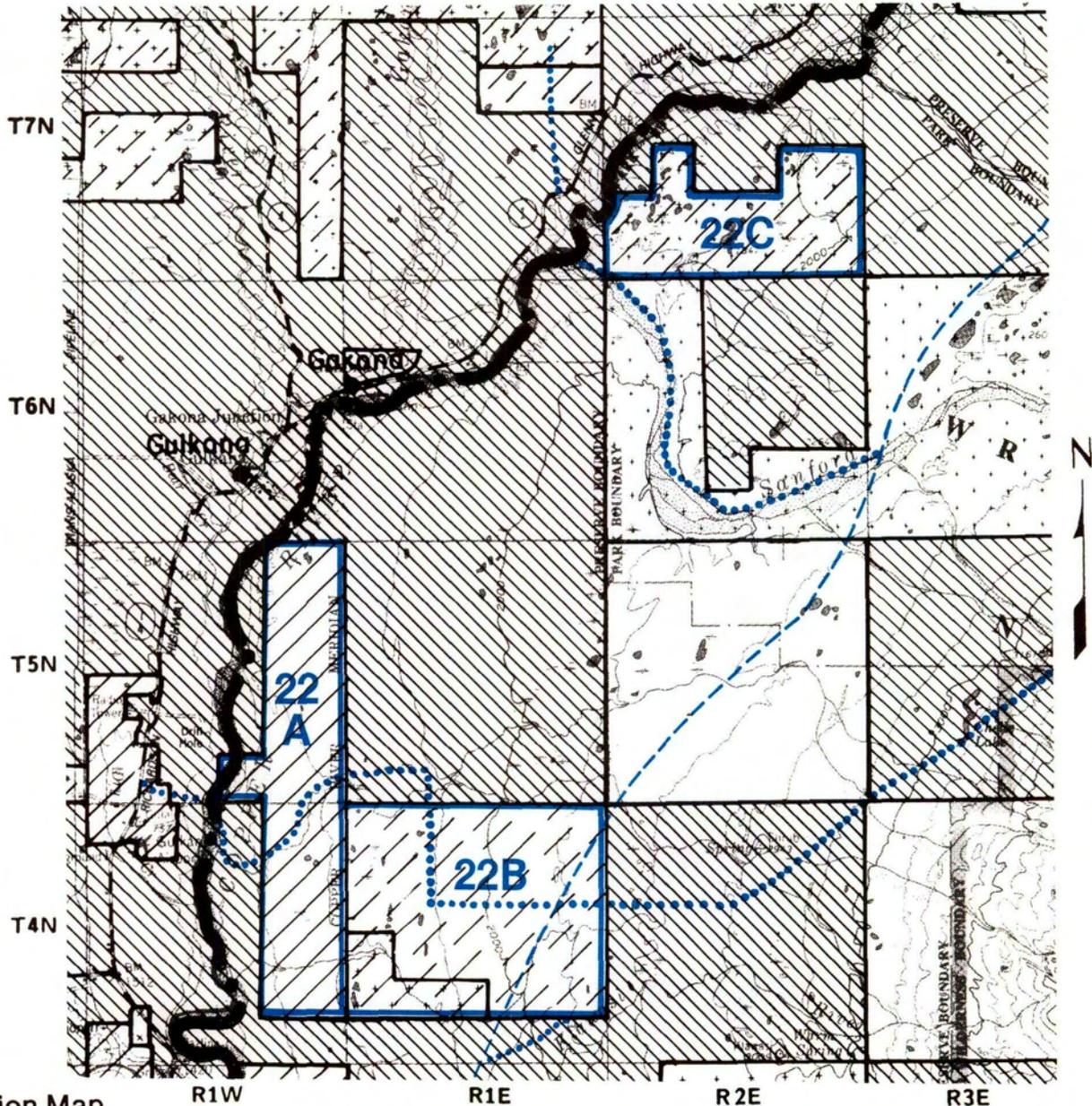
Important trails:

Subunits 22A and 22B: 17(b) easement from Copper River due east; leaves river east of Gulkana airport. Trail continues into Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve

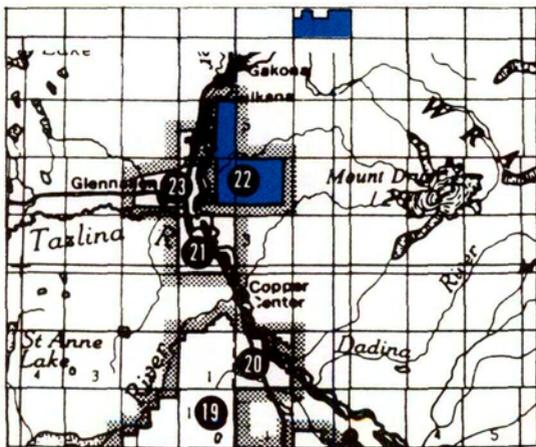
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 22

Mt. Drum Bluffs



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Gulkana

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 23: Glennallen-Gulkana

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land around Glennallen and near Gulkana airport. Much of the state land in this area has previously been sold for various settlement uses or is reserved for specific public uses such as the Gulkana airport.

Management Intent

Management Subunit 23A. Lands suitable for settlement should be offered for private ownership and the remainder of this unit will be retained in public ownership for multiple use. The subunit is open to mineral entry. Land that is suitable for settlement is found in narrow strips and in the northern part of the parcel. Land offerings should be well buffered from the dump in the northern part of this unit. Estimated net land offering is 200 acres.

Management Subunit 23B. This is the existing Dry Creek State Recreation Site that will continue under DPOR's management. This area is currently closed to mineral location.

Management Subunit 23C. This subunit consists of two tracts of land 1/2 mile south of the Glenn Highway near Glennallen and will be offered for private ownership. The eastern tract is the site of an existing timber sale. Access to this area will need to be improved before a land offering. Estimated net land offering is 500 acres.

Management Subunit 23D. This subunit includes areas of past state land offerings. Lots that were previously offered, but are unsold, or that revert to state ownership (such as through foreclosure) can be reoffered for private ownership. The remaining small parcels of state land previously classified for retention will not change and will be managed under the guidelines of the Copper River Basin Area Plan. A public recreation corridor will be retained along Moose Creek to protect fishing, swimming, and greenbelt values.

Management Guidelines

Gravel pits. Existing and productive gravel pits will be retained in public ownership.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Forestry
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 23 - Glennallen-Gulkana

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
23A	State	Settlement	Forestry Land leases Wildlife habitat	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Estimated net land offerings - 200 acres
23B	State	Dry Creek recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Grazing Trapping cabins	Existing Dry Creek State Recreation site
23C	State	Settlement	Forestry	Open, closed to mineral entry before land offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Estimated net land offerings - 500 acres
23D	Past state land offerings, Private	Settlement		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329532

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 23 - Glennallen, Gulkana

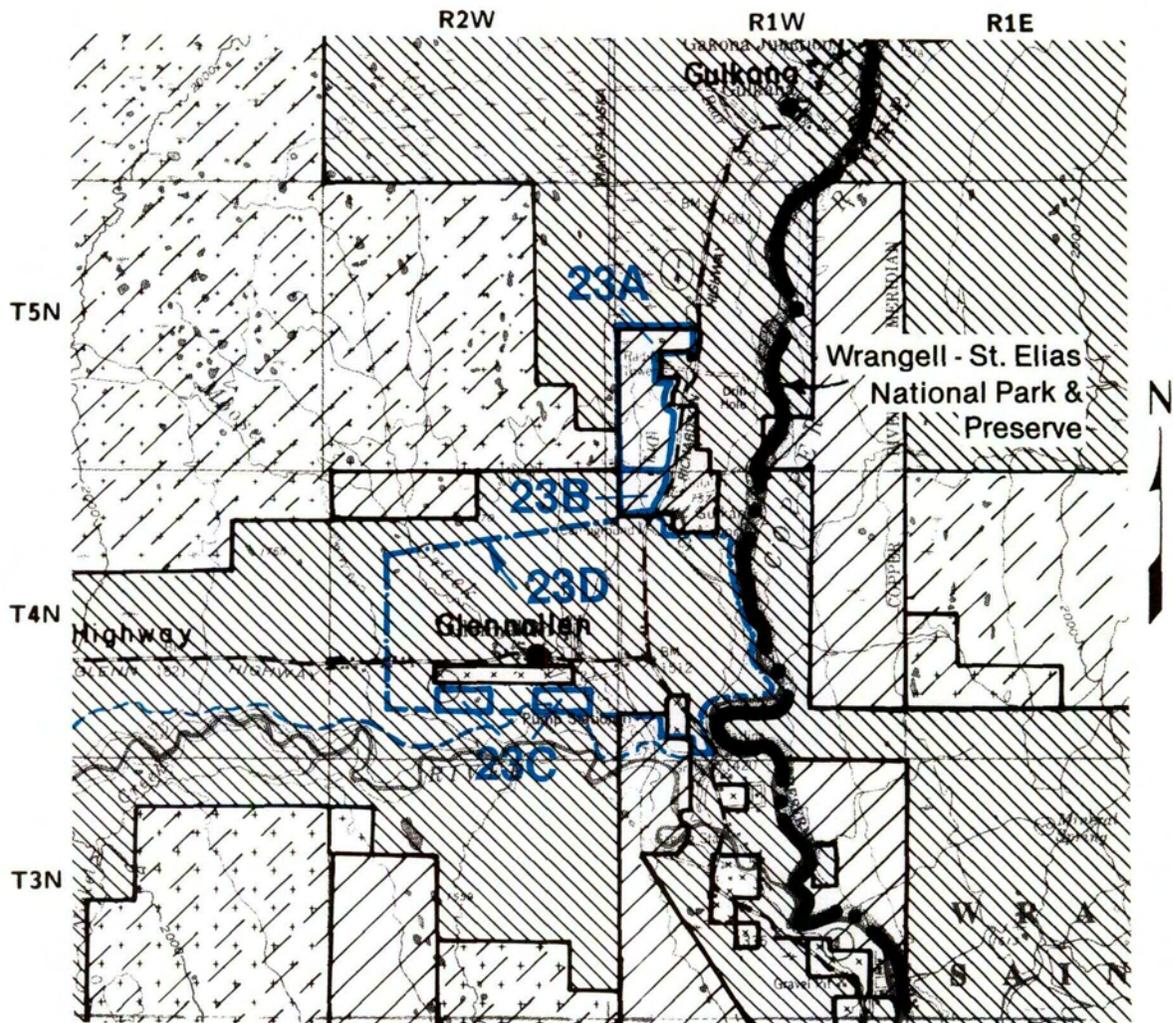
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	23A	23B	23C	23D
Agriculture	low	unsuitable	unsuitable	unsuitable
Fish	none docum.	none docum.	none docum.	salmon in Copper River
Forestry	unsuitable	moderate conif.	unsuitable	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terrane	outside of known mineral terrane	outside of known mineral terrane	outside of known mineral terrane
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	high along Dry Creek	existing rec. site at Dry Creek	low	high for hik- ing, fishing, swimming along Moose Creek
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	none ident.	existing sites
Settlement Suitability	low; unsuitable	low	moderate to high	variable, numerous past land offerings
Transportation	Richardson Hwy. near Gulkana airport, near public crossing of TAPS line	Richardson Hwy. near Gulkana airport	roads from Glenn Hwy.	Glenn Hwy., Richardson Hwy. Gateway Lodge airstrip
Wildlife	B-1 habitat	B-1 habitat, some swan nesting habitat	B-1 habitat	B-1 habitat; A-2 habitat - caribou

Notes: Dry Creek State Recreation Site in subunit 23B
Proposed new dump is in north part of subunit 23A

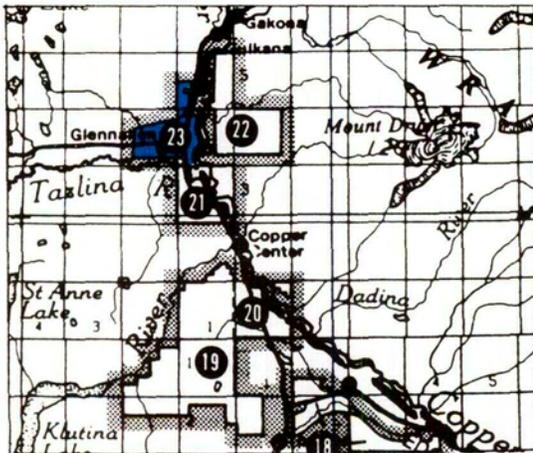
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 23

Glennallen/Gulkana



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Gulkana

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 24: Long Lake - Fireweed Mountain

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land north of the Nizina River and west of McCarthy. The land is entirely within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The area is used by local residents for hunting and firewood. A significant portion of the red salmon run in the Copper River spawns in Long Lake. The Chitina to McCarthy Road runs through this area and is used by many tourists. The road is not maintained in the winter. The plan assumes that DOT/PF will continue only seasonal maintenance of the road.

Management Intent

This is a unique parcel of state land because of its location within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Most state land in this unit will be retained in public ownership and be managed for multiple use. The emphasis will be on uses that complement the recreational values of the National Park. The state does not currently plan to develop recreation facilities (such as campgrounds) on state land. Leases and permits for commercial and noncommercial recreation activities may be allowed (consistent with other guidelines in this plan and applicable regulations). Leases for nonrecreation or nonpark related activities are prohibited. In addition, up to 900 acres of land will be made available for private use through settlement land offerings. The unit is open to mineral entry, except for Long Lake and Long Lake's outlet (the portions that are state owned), which are closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning habitat. Forest resources will be managed primarily for personal use harvest.

More specific management intent for each subunit follows.

Management Subunit 24A - Long Lake Area. Uses of state lands at Long Lake will be consistent with maintenance of the fish habitat and important habitat for grizzly bears. No facilities or structures will be built along the north shore of the lake adjacent to salmon spawning areas. Timber harvest will be conducted with consideration for protecting the view from Long Lake. Maintenance and construction activities on the Chitina-McCarthy Road will retain a buffer of trees between the road and the lakeshore to protect water quality from runoff and erosion. Material extraction within this area will occur only after design consultation with ADF&G and DEC.

Management Subunit 24B - Chitina-Nizina Rivers Corridor. The Nizina, Kennicott, and Chitina Rivers are of increasing importance for recreational river rafting. These rivers attract people from across the nation as well as Alaska residents. Money spent on transportation and river-based recreation is a growing source of regional income. State lands within 1/2 mile of the Nizina and Chitina Rivers will be managed primarily to maintain the natural setting and the scenic quality of the recreation values on the river. Much of the area consists of steep bluffs.

Some of the best timber in the McCarthy area grows in this subunit, which includes sites with good regeneration rates. This timber will continue to be available for personal use. A buffer of uncut trees will be left between the river and harvest areas. Gravel borrow pits will be located out of sight of river channels and of areas used by river rafters.

Management Subunit 24C - Western Benchlands. These lands will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use, particularly wildlife habitat, hunting, recreation, and personal-use forestry.

Management Subunit 24D - Fireweed Mountain Land Offering. A state land disposal was held in 1984 along the McCarthy Road. Up to 900 additional acres of land in this subunit can be made available for private ownership. Only half (450 acres) of this offering may occur during the first 10 years of the plan (before 1996) in order to minimize the impact on local residents and resources. A buffer of land should be retained in public ownership between the land offering and existing private lands to the east. Lands not offered for settlement will be retained in public ownership for multiple use including forestry and recreation.

Management Unit 24E - Strelna School Section. This single section of state land along the McCarthy Road will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with recreation and wildlife habitat as the primary uses.

Management Guidelines

Public Notification - McCarthy Residents. DNR will notify residents in the McCarthy area and provide for their input before issuing any leases or as part of the land offering design process (LADS). Notification should include notice via radio or posting at prominent places in the community or both.

Land within Wrangell - St. Elias National Park. DNR will notify the Superintendent of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve of any requests for permits, leases, or other authorizations for use of state lands that may significantly impact the national park and preserve.

McCarthy Road - Visual Impacts. Land uses will be set back from the McCarthy Road or a buffer of natural vegetation will be retained along the road right-of-way to protect scenic views from the road and the rustic character of the road. The report Denali to Wrangell-St. Elias, Assessment and Management of Scenic Resources Along the Highways Between Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks, (1982), prepared for DNR, should be consulted during planning for land use and management activities that are likely to result in significant visual changes along this road.

Land Offering - Phasing. The proposed land offering at Fireweed Mountain will be phased to minimize impacts on local residents and resources; 450 acres will be offered in the next 10 years and an additional 450 acres can be offered after 1996.

Land Offering - Subdividing. The contract for land sales should prohibit subdividing of lots until the lot is paid off to the state.

Trail Reservation. The trail that leaves the McCarthy Road in T. 6 S., R. 13 E., Section 29 and runs towards the Lakina River should be retained in public ownership through areas offered for private ownership. The trail historically provided access to the Lakina drainage.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

Fish and wildlife habitat
Forestry
Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
Settlement
Stream corridors and instream flow
Public access
Transportation

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 24 - Long Lake/Fireweed Mountain

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
24A	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry except Long Lake and outlet	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	Long Lake area
24B	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	River corridors
24C	State	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	Western Benchlands
24D	State	Settlement	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry; disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins, Trapping cabins in land offering	Eastern Benchland, estimated net land offering - 900 acres
24E	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	Single section near Strelna

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329538

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 24 - Long Lake - Fireweed Mountain (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	24A	24B	24C	24D
Fish	salmon-s/r steelhead-s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s
Forestry	moderate conif.	moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	prehistoric remains possible	prehistoric remains possible	prehistoric remains possible	prehistoric remains possible
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high along McCarthy Rd. & Long Lake; scenic; inside national park	high for river floating; scenic; inside national park	high along McCarthy Rd.; scenic; inside national park	high along McCarthy Rd.; scenic; inside national park
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	existing site	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	low to moderate	low	low	variable
Transportation	McCarthy Rd.	near McCarthy Rd.	McCarthy Rd.	McCarthy Rd.
Wildlife	A-1 habitat (Long Lake), B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

Minerals: Most mineralized lands are north and east of state lands

Important trails:

Subunit 24A: Trail along Lakina River, mostly across private and National Park land.

Subunit 24D: Trail to Lakina River, joins McCarthy Rd. in Sec. 29, T6S, R13E.

McCarthy Rd. - state right-of-way and potential RS 2477 trail.

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

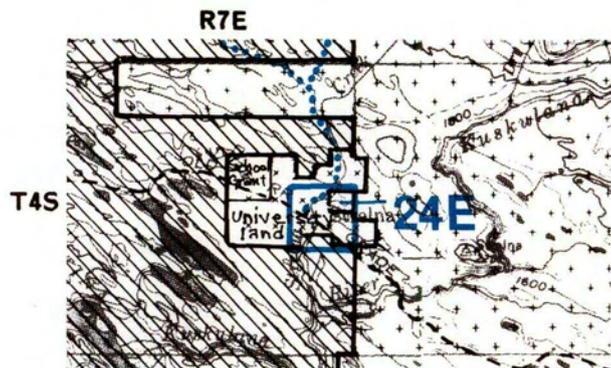
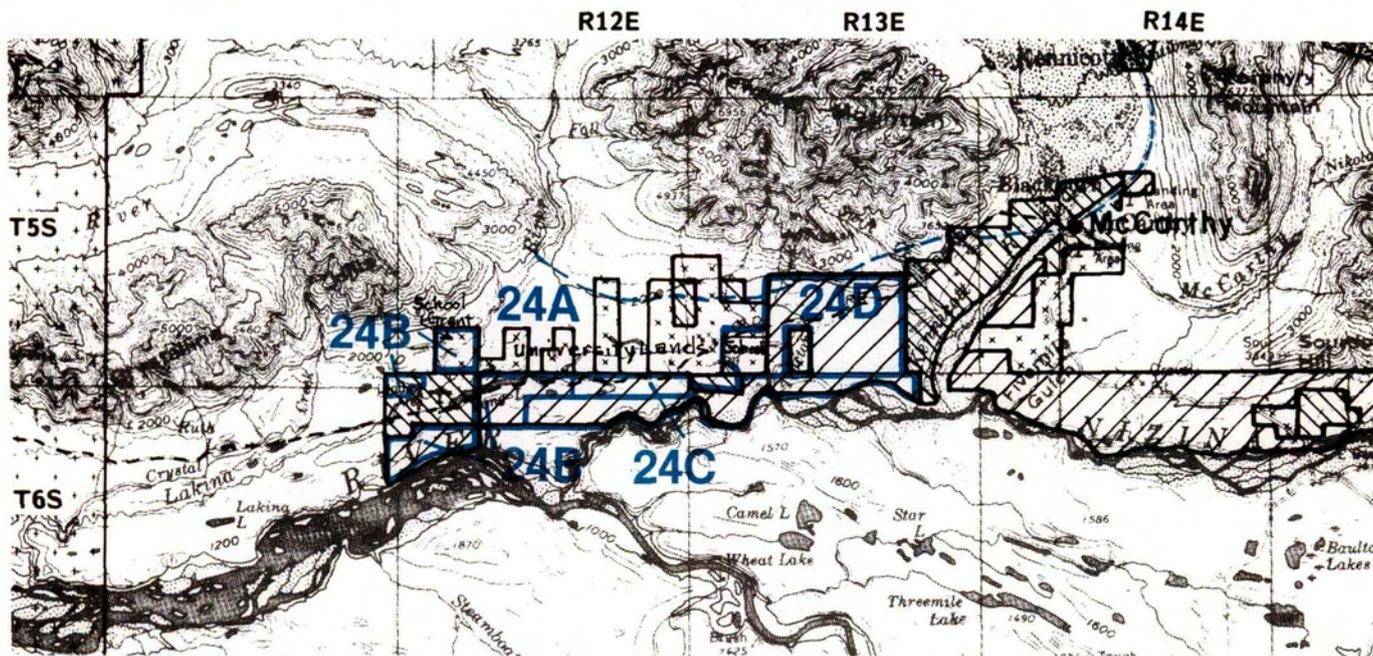
Management Unit 24 - Long Lake - Fireweed Mountain (page 2 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	24E
Fish	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	prehistoric remains possible
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	high along McCarthy Rd.
Sand and Gravel	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	moderate
Transportation	McCarthy Rd.
Wildlife	not rated

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 24

Long Lake/Fireweed Mountain



Location Map



Map scale:
1:250,000

U.S.G.S. Quad:
McCarthy

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 25: McCarthy - Nizina River

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned land north of the Nizina River and east and south of McCarthy. The land is entirely within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The area is primarily state owned with some University and private land interspersed. The area is used by local residents for hunting, trapping, and firewood gathering. Access is provided by two bush airstrips, one an unmaintained public airstrip near McCarthy and the other a private strip near the Nizina River. Overland access requires crossing McCarthy Creek. Summer access is difficult because there are no bridges across McCarthy Creek and the water is usually too high to ford easily and safely. An old road traverses the entire tract, but bridges across McCarthy Creek and the Nizina River have been destroyed in floods.

Management Intent

This is a unique parcel of state land because of its location within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This land will be kept in public ownership and managed for multiple use. The emphasis will be on uses which complement the recreational values of the National Park. The state currently does not plan to develop recreation facilities (such as campgrounds) on state land. Leases and permits for commercial and noncommercial recreation activities may be allowed if consistent with other guidelines in this plan and applicable regulations. Leases for nonrecreational or nonpark related activities are prohibited. The unit will be opened to mineral entry (it was closed pending land exchange or sale). Because forest resources are limited, they will be managed primarily for personal use harvest.

Management Guidelines

Public Notification - McCarthy Residents. DNR will notify residents of the McCarthy area and provide for their input before issuing any leases on state land in this unit. Notification should include notice via radio or posting at prominent places in the community or both.

Land within Wrangell - St. Elias National Park. DNR will notify the Superintendent of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve of any requests for permits, leases, or other authorizations for use of state lands that may significantly impact the national park and preserve.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Forestry
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Transportation
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 25 - McCarthy-Nizina Rivers

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
25A	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
25B	State	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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ACE 6329543

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 25 - McCarthy - Nizina Rivers

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	25A	25B
Fish	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	none docum.
Forestry	moderate conif. and decid.	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	prehistoric remains and mining remains	prehistoric remains and mining remains
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high for river floating; scenic, inside national park	high; inside national park; scenic
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	existing site
Settlement Suitability	low	low to moderate
Transportation	old road (no bridges)	airstrip, old road (no bridges)
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

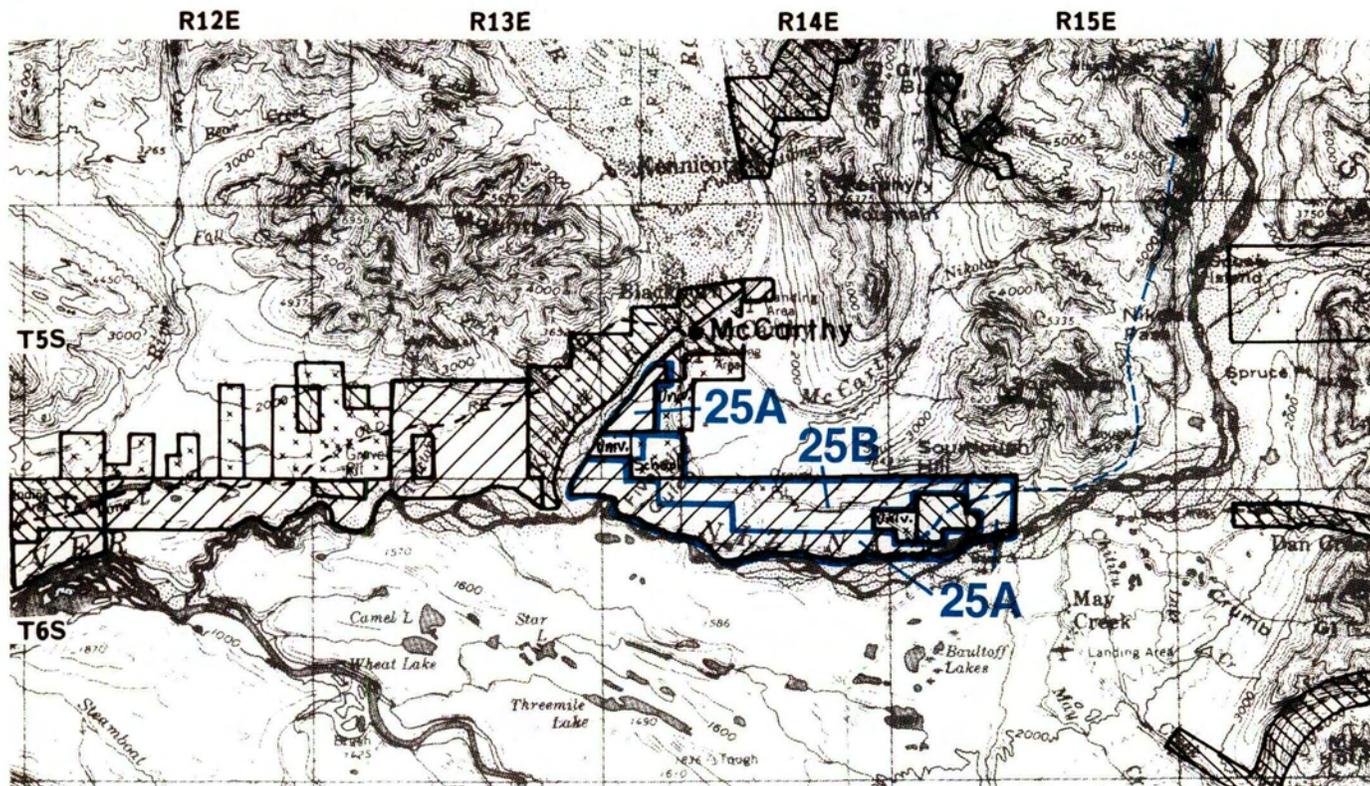
Minerals: Most mineralized lands are north and east of state lands.

Important trails: Subunits 25A and 25B - old road is used as a trail, but has no bridges at McCarthy Creek and Nizina River. Crossing both streams when not frozen is hazardous at best.

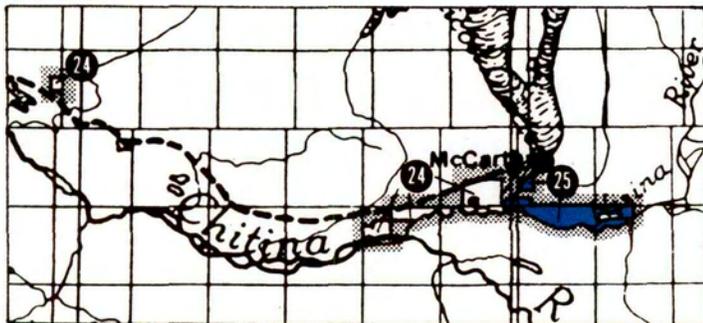
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 25

McCarthy/Nizina River



Location Map



Map scale:
1:250,000

U.S.G.S. Quad:
McCarthy

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

ACE 6329545

MANAGEMENT UNIT 26: Lower Gakona River

Background

This management unit includes state-owned and state-selected lands in the lower Gakona River drainage. The southern part of this unit has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. Primary existing land uses are for hunting and trapping. The unit has a high concentration of nesting trumpeter swans. A series of lakes located just east of Hogan Hill could have potential for canoeing. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating the lower part of this subunit (near Gakona) as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System.

Management Intent

The state land in this unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on protecting trumpeter swans and their nesting habitat. To protect nesting swans, seasonal limitations will be imposed on access by tracked vehicles and heavy equipment. Certain other activities may also be subject to seasonal limitations (see management guidelines below). Although a system of lakes in this unit has potential for development of a canoe trail system, encouraging this recreational use could lead to increased disturbance of swans. Canoeing in the area is allowed; however, the state will not encourage such activity.

All land is open to mineral entry except for Spring Creek, which is closed to mineral location to protect salmon and resident fish spawning and rearing areas.

Management Guidelines

Trumpeter Swan Habitat. The guidelines for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 apply to this entire unit. The Alaska Legislature should consider designating trumpeter swan habitat as a critical habitat area to retain the land in public ownership and provide greater long-term protection to the trumpeter swans.

Backscatter Radar. If the USAF selects a site for a backscatter radar system in this area, the facility should be developed to protect trumpeter swans and swan habitat.

Mineral Closure. Land within 200 feet of Spring Creek and the creek itself will be closed to mineral location.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Transportation
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 26 - Lower Gakona River

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
26	State, State-Native selected	Wildlife habitat	Public recreation Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases,* ² Land offerings, Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply

*¹ Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

*² See management guidelines

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 26 - Lower Gakona River

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	26
Fish	salmon - s/r steelhead - s
Forestry	moderate conif. and decid., scattered
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	low
Recreation	high for Taiga Lakes area; canoeing
Settlement Suitability	low
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swans, moose, caribou; B-1 habitat

Important trails: Trail from Richardson Hwy. north of Sourdough provides access to western part of unit. Two 17(b) easements reserved from Richardson Hwy. to southern part of unit.

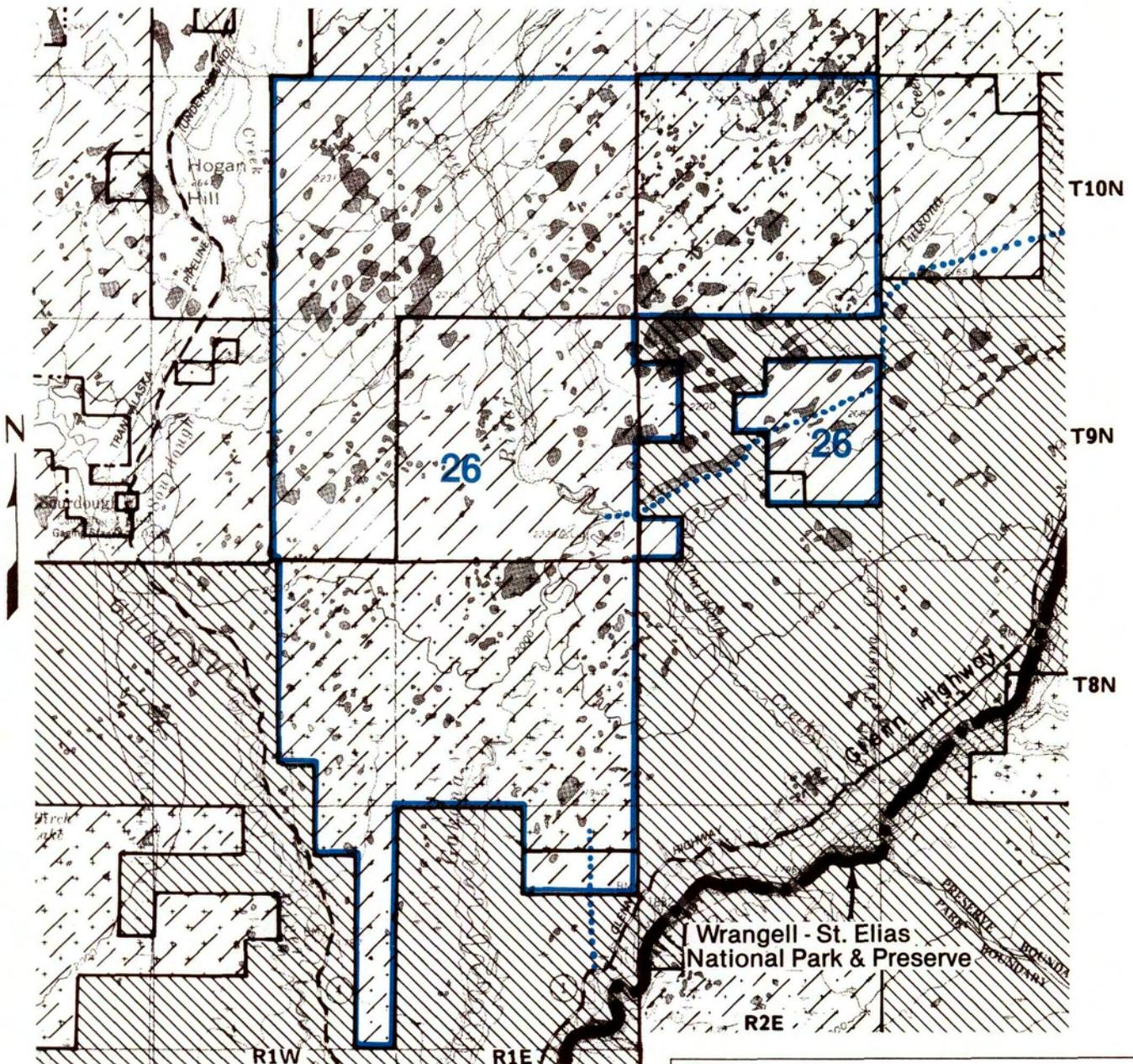
17(b) easement from Tok Cut-off 8 miles northeast of Gakona.

17(b) easement from Chistochina Trail across Sinona and Tulsona Creek.

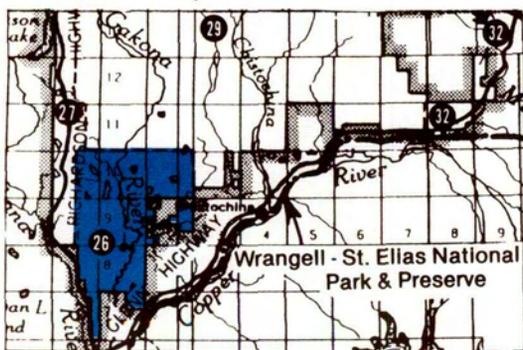
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 26

Lower Gakona River



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Gulkana

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 27: Gulkana River - Richardson Highway

Background

This management unit includes state-owned land and state-selected land, and federal land that the state should select along the Richardson Highway from Sourdough to Paxson. It also includes state-owned shorelands under the Gulkana River and Paxson Lake. The Gulkana River upstream from Sourdough is a National Wild and Scenic River and is popular for fishing and river floating. From Sourdough to the Copper River, the Gulkana River flows through Native corporation land. The river is navigable; therefore, the land under the portion of the river that flows through the Native land conveyances is state owned. However, legal appeals on the navigability decision are pending from Ahtna, Inc. The Gulkana River and Paxson Lake are important for salmon spawning and rearing. Most land around Paxson Lake is federally owned although it has been selected by Native corporations. BLM maintains a campground on the east shore of the lake, a popular starting point for people floating the Gulkana River.

Land along the Richardson Highway is used for hunting and trapping. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline and possible routes for a future natural gas line also traverse this unit. Meiers Lake, near the Richardson Highway, is used as a camping area; it is scenic and has the only major cottonwood stands for some distance. The southern end of the lake is privately owned. Several off-road vehicle trails that provide access to the Gakona River country start at a lake to the northwest. There are wonderful views of the Wrangell Mountains and the surrounding countryside from Hogan Hill.

Federal land in the pipeline corridor has been withdrawn from state selection by the Secretary of the Interior through Public Land Order 5150. The state has requested this withdrawal be removed to select land within the corridor. BLM contends that the state should not make land selections in the pipeline corridor.

Management Intent

This entire management unit should be managed for multiple uses with emphasis on public recreation, providing a transportation and utility corridor, and protecting fish and wildlife. Meiers and Paxson Lakes will be managed as recreation lakes (see p. 2-41).

Management Subunit 27A. This is the road and pipeline corridor from Sourdough to Meiers Lake. The state should select federal land in the corridor that will be managed for multiple use, with emphasis on transportation, recreation, and wildlife habitat. State-owned land in the subunit is open to mineral entry. Additional lands conveyed to the state will be opened to mineral entry, except the TAPS right-of-way and Spring Creek. Spring Creek is closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning habitat. This subunit lies within a major migration route for caribou. All land uses will be sited and designed so as not to impede caribou migrations.

Management Subunit 27B. This is the road and pipeline corridor from Meiers Lake to just north of Paxson. The land will be managed for multiple use, with emphasis on transportation, wildlife habitat, recreation, and settlement. The subunit is open or, on conveyance to the state, will be open to mineral entry. The TAPS right-of-way will remain closed to mineral location to protect existing and future utility uses; Spring Creek will remain closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning habitat. Additional sites for public access to Paxson Lake should be identified and reserved. Land offerings for recreational and year-round settlement are allowed in this subunit, with an estimated net land offering of 400 acres. Land offerings will probably be in scattered parcels of land suitable for settlement along the highway,

around small lakes near Meiers Lake, or on the hillside between the highway and the TAPS line near Paxson.

Management Unit 27C. This unit consists of state-owned shorelands under Paxson Lake, the Gulkana River from Paxson Lake to its confluence with the Copper River, and navigable portions of the Middle and West Forks of the Gulkana. The Gulkana River corridor from near Sourdough is a National Wild and Scenic River, managed by BLM and has exceptional recreation and fisheries values. This land will be managed for recreation and fish production and will be closed to mineral entry to ensure protection of these resources. The river will not be available for oil and gas leasing. Surface entry for oil and gas leasing will be incompatible with the Wild River designation and adjacent federal lands have been withdrawn from oil and gas leasing. Land leases are prohibited on the river from Sourdough to Paxson Lake and on the West and Middle Forks of the Gulkana River. Below Sourdough, leases or permits related to river recreation are allowed after consultation with BLM and DPOR. Leases not related to river recreation are generally prohibited. For activities located upstream from Sourdough, permits can be issued if consistent with the federal Wild River designation.

The river will be administratively designated as a State Wild and Scenic River under Alaska Statute 38.04.070 (4) and will be suitable for the legislature to designate as a State Recreation River.

Management Unit 27D. This is state-owned and state-selected land located west of the Richardson Highway and south of the Denali Highway at the north end of Paxson Lake. The area includes the Paxson closed area--an area closed to hunting by ADF&G regulations to protect moose, bear, and caribou populations. The area will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat. The area, except the Gulkana River, will be open to mineral entry. The existing gravel pit will be retained, but any expansion of the pit should only be allowed if ADF&G determines wildlife resources will not be significantly impacted.

Management Guidelines

Gulkana River Management. DNR, DOT/PF, and BLM should develop a cooperative agreement to assign BLM the responsibility for managing recreation on the entire Gulkana River. This agreement should also specify who should manage the three trail easements and three site easements reserved on Ahtna, Inc., land that lead to the river below Sourdough. It should also specify the location and management of a pull out for river floaters at the Richardson Highway bridge at Gulkana.

Shorelands within Gulkana National Wild River (Paxson Lake to Sourdough). DNR will notify the Glennallen Area Manager of BLM of any requests for permits, leases, or other authorizations for use of state shorelands within the boundary of the national wild river and provide an opportunity for comment on these proposals.

Potential Gas Line Corridor. A route for the proposed Yukon-Pacific natural gas line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez is proposed through this unit. The route roughly parallels the TAPS line. A corridor, 1/4-mile wide on both sides of the TAPS line, should be reserved in state ownership for a possible future gas line, until a more specific route is established.

Land Offering - Guidelines.

1. The 1-mile, 10-mile, and old Meiers Lake trails that run east from the Richardson Highway will be retained in state ownership.

2. Land offerings should be located within 1/2 mile of the highway to minimize conflict with wildlife and dispersed recreational use of the area (such as hunting or snowmobiling) if the following guidelines can be met:
 - Sufficient suitable land can be found.
 - Steep slopes that glaciare in winter or may glaciare if cut can be avoided.
 - Offerings can be located so that structures would not negatively affect the views from the highway or Paxson Lake.
 - Offerings can be sufficiently separated from existing private parcels to avoid a sense of crowding.
 - The public recreation area used by Paxson area residents can be avoided.
3. Right-of-way for a potential natural gas line will also be reserved through this area.
4. Access to the BLM campsite on Paxson Lake will be retained in public ownership.
5. This land should be offered for sale and should not be offered under the homesteading program.
6. The land offering should be designed to avoid a proliferation of roads from the Richardson Highway.
7. The land offered should not all be offered at one time.
8. The land offering should be offered in a number clusters rather than all at one site.

Land Offering - Public Involvement. Specific areas to be offered for sale will be identified through the DNR land disposal planning process. Residents of Paxson and the vicinity will be consulted during the disposal planning process.

Land Offering - Classification. Specific areas to be offered for settlement have not been identified in the plan or classified along with the plan. Classifications for settlement in this area do not require plan amendment.

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership.

Visual Quality. Land offerings will be sited and designed to minimize adverse effects on views from the highway.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Public access
- Transportation

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 27 - Gulkana River-Richardson Highway Corridor

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
27A	State, Federal-BLM	Transportation corridor, Wildlife habitat Public recreation	Sand and gravel	Open to mineral entry except Spring Creek and TAPS R.O.W.	Available for leasing	Land offerings, Remote cabins	
27B	State, state selected	Settlement, Transportation corridor, Wildlife habitat Public recreation	Sand and gravel	Open to mineral entry except Spring Creek and TAPS R.O.W.	Available for leasing	Remote cabins, Trapping cabins	Estimated net land offering - 400 acres
27C	State (navigable waters) - Gulkana River, Paxson Lake	Public recreation, Wildlife habitat		Closed to mineral entry	Not available for leasing	Land leases in NWSR Corridor,* ² Land offerings, Sand and gravel extraction, Remote cabins	Gulkana River including West and Middle Forks, Paxson Lake
27D	State, state selected	Public recreation, Wildlife habitat	Sand and gravel	Open to mineral entry except Gulkana River	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

*¹ Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

*² NWSR. National Wild and Scenic River corridor - see management guidelines for this area.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 27 - Gulkana River - Richardson Highway

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	27A	27B	27C	27D
Fish	salmon-s/r steelhead-s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s Rainbow trout, grayling	salmon - s/r
Forestry	moderate conif.	moderate conif.	N/A	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	low	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	moderate	high near Paxson Lake	very high near Paxson Lake and along Gulkana River, a National Wild & Scenic River	high near Paxson Lake
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential areas	existing site and potential area	unsuitable	existing site
Settlement Suitability	low	moderate	N/A	low to moderate
Transportation	Richardson Hwy., TAPS	Richardson Hwy., TAPS, McMahan airstrip	Gulkana River, Paxson Lake, navigable	Richardson Hwy.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose; B-1 habitat	B-2 habitat	A-1, B-1, and B-2 habitats	A-1 habitat - caribou; B-2 habitat, Paxson closed area

Important trails:

Subunit 27A: Public crossing of TAPS line near Hogan Hill.

Recreation trail from Richardson Hwy. to Gulkana River.

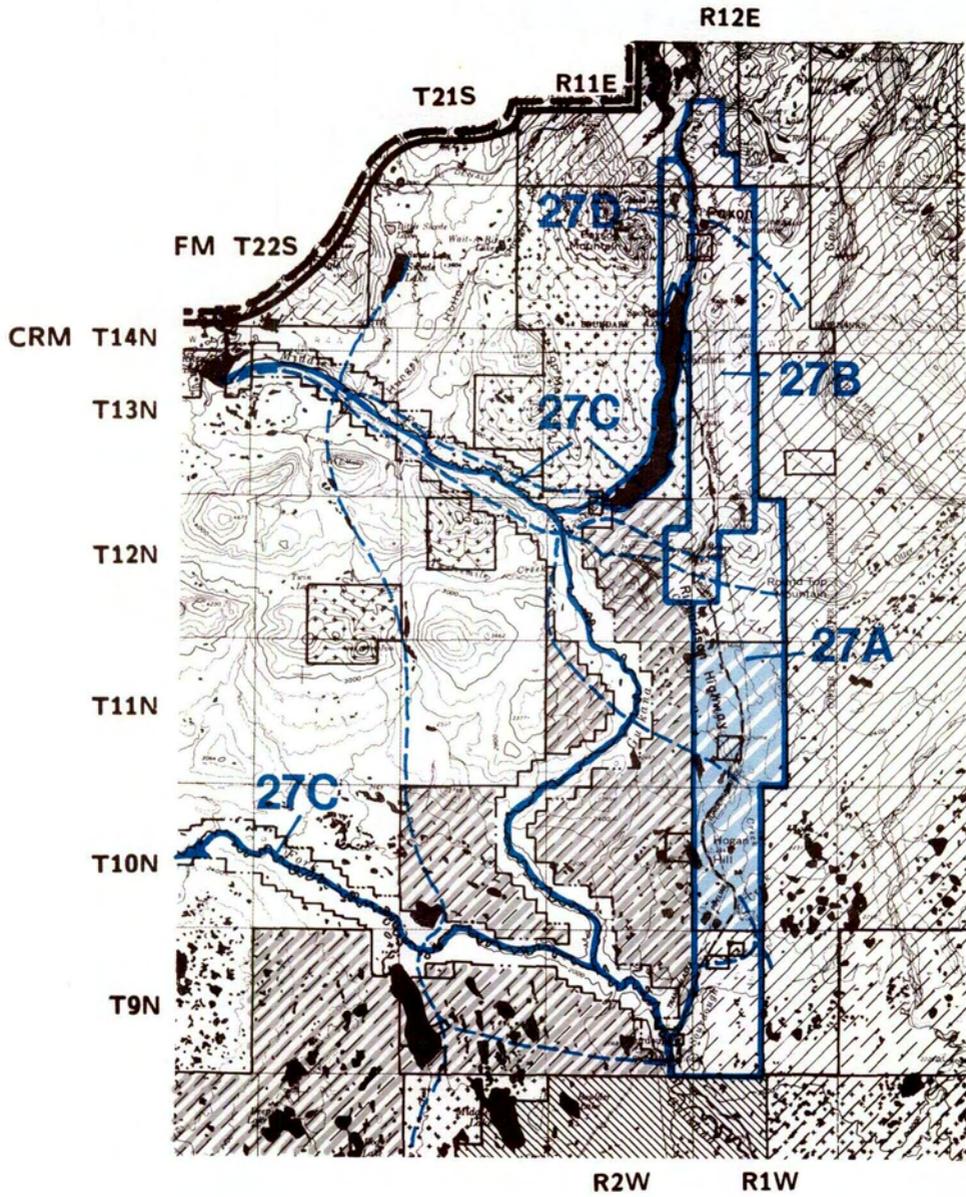
Subunit 27B: Several public crossings of TAPS line

Subunit 27C: Lower Gulkana River accessed via three 17(b) easements from Richardson Hwy.

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

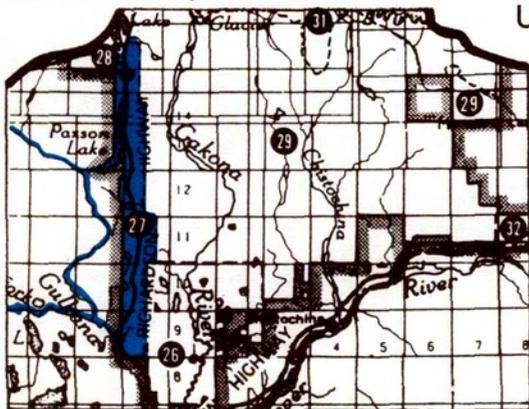
MANAGEMENT UNIT 27

Gulkana River/Richardson Highway



Unit 27C includes all navigable segments of the Gulkana River

Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Mt. Hayes

Map scale:
1:500,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections
-  Proposed Relinquishments
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 28: Summit Lake

Background

This management unit includes state-owned land around Summit Lake and state-owned and state-selected land along the Denali Highway west of Summit Lake. The area is mostly alpine with very few trees. The elevation is generally over 3,000 feet above sea level. Summit Lake, Gunn Creek, Fish Creek, and the Upper Gulkana River are major salmon spawning and rearing areas. The unit is a popular recreation area, particularly for residents of Fairbanks and the Tanana Valley. Recreation activities include fishing, boating, hiking, climbing, snowmachining, and cross country skiing. Some private land exists near the Summit Lake Lodge, and a state subdivision was offered east of the Richardson Highway on land that overlooks the lake. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating an area east of Summit Lake as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System.

Management Intent

The unit should be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation and protection of salmon habitat. Unsold lots in the previous state subdivision may continue to be offered for private ownership. All land uses around the lake and its anadromous tributaries should occur in a manner that ensures protection of these waters for recreation and fish. Summit Lake will be managed as a recreation lake (see p. 2-41). The upper Gulkana hatchery site should be reserved (through an Interagency Land Management Agreement) for ADF&G's use. The Gulkana River, Summit Lake, the area between the south arm of the lake and Gulkana River, Fish Creek, and Gunn Creek will be closed to new mineral entry to protect salmon and resident fish habitat and populations. The TAPS right-of-way was previously closed to mineral location. The remainder of the unit remains open to mineral location.

The state should select additional federal land along the Denali Highway in T. 21 S., R. 10 E.; T. 22 S., R. 10 E.; and T. 22 S., R. 11 E., Fairbanks Meridian. These selections complement state selections filed November 12, 1986, for most of the land along the Denali Highway from Tangle Lakes west to near Cantwell. DNR will evaluate all of these selections to determine which lands it wishes to own. Lands that are conveyed to the state will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat and recreation.

The Summit Lake area is identified in the Tanana Basin Area Plan as a potential State Recreation Area along with the Fielding Lake area to the northwest. Summit Lake is suitable for such designation, but is not currently recommended for legislative designation because other high value recreation areas in the basin have higher priority for action by the legislature.

Management Guidelines

Potential Gas Line Corridor. A corridor 1/4 mile wide on both sides of the TAPS line should be reserved in state ownership for a possible future gas line until a more specific route is established. The proposed route for the Yukon-Pacific natural gas line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez passes through this unit. The route roughly parallels the TAPS line except where it diverges west of Summit Lake.

Denali Highway - Visual Impacts. The report Denali to Wrangell - St. Elias, Assessment and Management of Scenic Resources Along the Highways Between Denali and Wrangell - St. Elias National Parks, (1982), should be used when planning for land

use and management activities that will probably result in significant visual changes along this road.

Backscatter Radar. If the USAF selects a site in this area for the proposed backscatter radar facility, it should be developed to minimize impacts on fisheries and recreation resources. Access roads will be designed to minimize impacts on habitats and enhance public use of state land.

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership.

Mineral Closures. Some areas will be closed to mineral location to protect salmon and resident fish spawning and rearing areas: Summit Lake; Gulkana River; Fish Lake; land within 200 feet of Gunn Creek and Fish Creek; and Gunn and Fish Creeks themselves. The area between the south arm of Summit Lake and the Gulkana River will also be closed to mineral location because water used in the Gulkana fish hatchery flows through here.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline right-of-way will remain closed to mineral location to protect existing and future uses.

Trails. Swede Lake Trail, from the Denali Highway, gives road access to high value recreation resources. Currently under BLM management, the area is proposed for state selection. If the state receives title, DLWM should consider appropriate management guidelines at that time.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 28 - Summit Lake

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
28A	State	Public recreation Water resources Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry except Summit Lake, Gunn Creek, Fish Creek, Gulkana River	Available for leasing	Land offerings* ² Remote cabins	Past land offering east of Summit Lake
28B	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

*¹ Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

*² Reofferings of lots in past subdivision is considered an allowed use.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 28 - Summit Lake - Upper Gulkana

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	28A	28B
Fish	salmon - s/r	salmon - s/r
Forestry	unsuitable	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	moderate to low	moderate
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high for Summit Lake; fishing, boating, snowmobiling, hiking	high; snowmobiling, hiking
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential area	existing sites
Settlement Suitability	low	low
Transportation	Richardson Hwy.	Denali Hwy.
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - caribou; B-2 habitat	B-1 and B-2 habitats

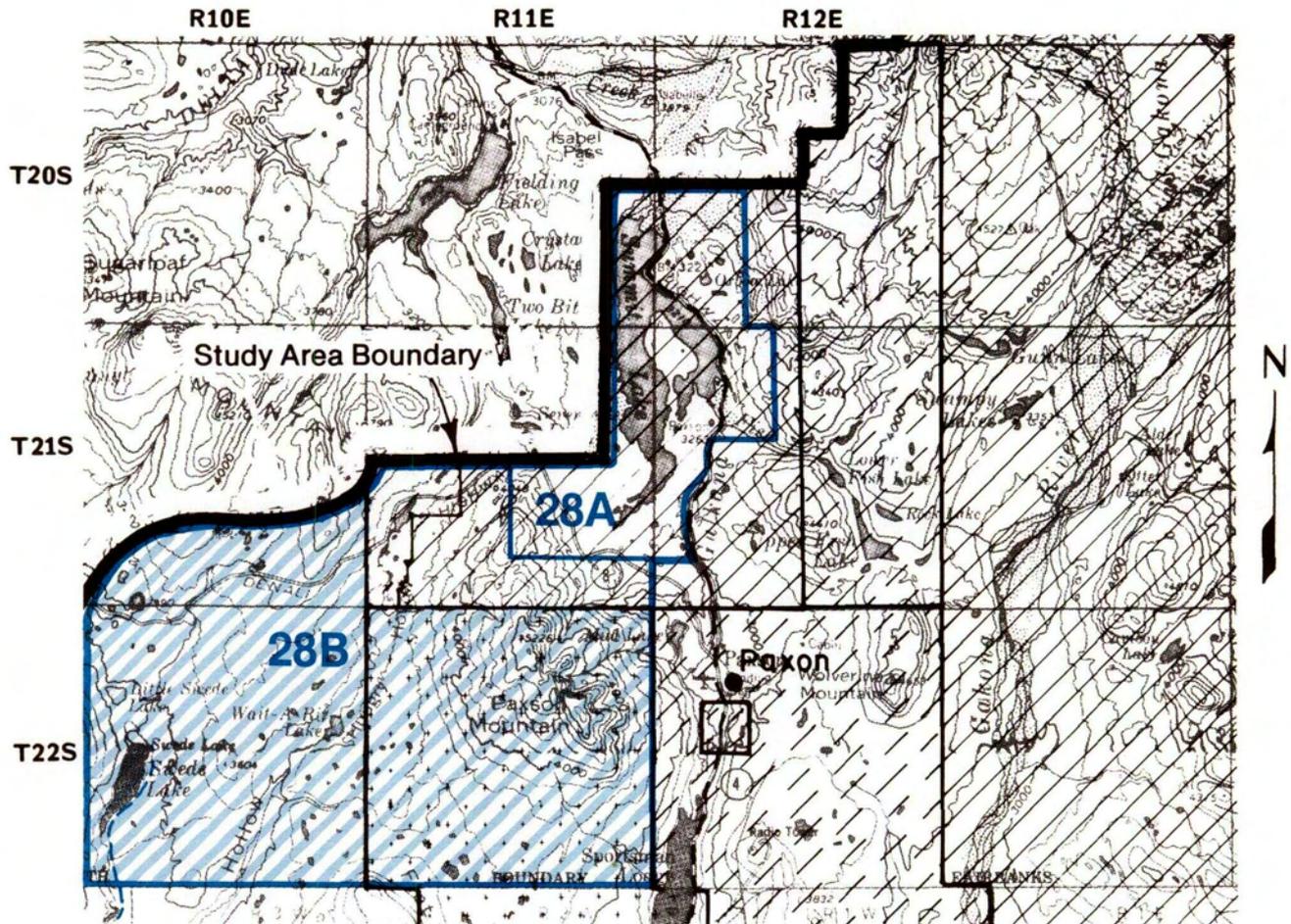
Notes: a) Future State Recreation Area at Summit Lake and Fielding Lake to the northwest is proposed in Tanana Basin Area Plan.

b) Fish hatchery site on upper Gulkana River.

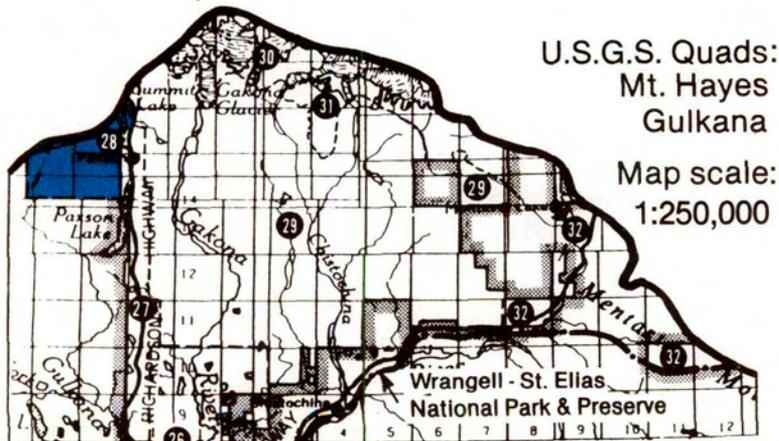
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 28

Summit Lake



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Mt. Hayes
Gulkana
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 29: Upper Gakona, Chistochina, and Slana River Drainages

Background

This very large management unit includes state-owned and state-selected lands south of the Alaska Range and land within the drainages of the Gakona, Chistochina, and Slana Rivers. The topography is generally flat, but gradually rises toward the Alaska Range. Rivers are glacier fed, braided, and, with some notable exceptions, do not provide good habitat for fish. The area is popular for hunting and trapping because of fairly good populations of moose and caribou and relative accessibility to off-road vehicles and snowmachines. Most vegetation is tundra; trees are found only along creeks and rivers at the lower elevations. The land is physically suitable only for scattered cabins. This management unit is in the minimum protection category of the interagency fire management plan. The Slate Creek - Chisna mining area is in management unit 31.

Land around Mankomen Lake (subunit 29B) is used for hunting, trapping, and camping. BLM built a small campground on the lakeshore. Several cabins and many parcels of private land are located on the northern and eastern shore of the lake. The lake is accessible by trail from the Chistochina River or from Mentasta, by a private airstrip near the lake, or by floatplanes.

The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating two areas within this management unit as possible sites for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System. The areas are east of Summit Lake and near Indian Creek.

Management Intent

Land throughout this unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, hunting, and dispersed recreation. The entire unit, except for segments of a few rivers and streams, is open to mineral location. As with all areas open to mineral entry, mining is recognized as an allowed use. The streams closed to mineral location to protect salmon spawning and rearing areas and resident fish populations are listed in management guidelines. Under the Remote Cabins Permit program, 48 private cabins are allowed in this unit in the numbers and areas identified below. This large unit has many dispersed sites suitable for individual cabins. Areas within the unit where cabins are not allowed have higher wildlife values, are too high in elevation for cabins, or are within relatively easy access from roads.

If the state acquires sufficient land suitable for settlement at Mankomen Lake (subunit 29B), a land offering for settlement of up to 500 acres is allowed. Mankomen Lake will be managed as a recreation lake (see p. 2-41).

Management Guidelines

Mineral Closure. Streams that will be closed to new mineral location to protect fish habitat and populations are listed below. In all cases, stream closures include land 200 feet on both sides of the stream plus the stream itself.

- Upper Gunn Creek and Gunn Lake (tributary to Summit Lake)
- Upper Fish Creek and Fish Lake (tributary to Summit Lake)
- two small tributaries to the Gakona River near Swampy Lake
- the East Fork of the Chistochina below Mankomen Lake
- Slana River above Lost Creek
- Ahtel Creek to 2 miles above Flat Creek
- Spring Creek

Remote Cabin Permits are allowed in certain areas of this management unit. These permits allow individuals to build privately owned cabins on state land and are valid for up to 25 years. To avoid conflicts with access, brown bears or salmon spawning, remote cabin permits will **not** be issued in the following areas:

1. Within 1/2 mile of existing airstrips.
2. Within 1/4 mile of existing trails (identified in the Copper River Plan Transportation Element).
3. Within 1/4 mile of the East Fork Chistochina River.
4. Within 1/4 mile of Indian Creek from the junction of the east and west forks upstream along the east fork for 5 miles and along the west fork 2 miles to a waterfall.
5. Within 1 mile from the point where the East Fork Chistochina River joins the main stem of the Chistochina River.
6. Where public access for hunting, recreation, or mining would be hindered.

Additional guidelines for remote cabins in this unit are:

1. The cabins will be spaced at least 1/2 mile apart except on Sinona Lake and two lakes near lower Excelsior Creek (in T. 11 N., R. 2 E., Section 8 and T. 12 N., R. 2 E., Section 22). The Director of DLWM can approve closer spacing on these lakes.
2. No cabins can be constructed within 2 miles of the Tok cut-off (Glenn Highway) or 5 miles of the Richardson Highway. The different distances reflect relative ease of access from the Richardson Highway to state land compared to access from the Tok cut-off to state land.
3. DLWM will notify the Division of Forestry Fire Management Planning Team of the location of these cabins.
4. Remote cabins are subject to guidelines in Chapter 2, particularly guidelines for fish and wildlife and settlement.
5. DNR will provide cabin permit holders with information on legal access routes to remote cabin areas.
6. The assignment of permits for new remote cabins shall be phased over a 20-year period. For example, DNR could issue 10 permits every 4 years.
7. The implementation of the remote cabin program should ensure that opportunities to acquire these permits are phased over the 20-year life of the plan.

Remote cabins are allowed in the areas shown on the management unit map. A specific number of remote cabins permits may be issued:

Ahtel Creek Area - Five permits if most land that is presently state selected is conveyed to state ownership; otherwise a lesser amount determined by the Director of DLWM.

Indian Creek - Seven permits

East Fork Chistochina River drainage (excluding Mankomen Lake) - Eight permits

Chistochina River drainage - Ten permits

Sinona Creek and Lake - Eight permits

Middle Gakona - Excelsior Creek area - Ten permits, three of which may be located west of the Gakona River and the remainder east of the Gakona River.

The number of cabins refer only to cabins authorized under 11 AAC (and any similar program), but do not apply to trapping cabins.

Remote Cabin Permits - Fire Protection. DNR will not alter fire management plans because of the presence of remote cabins. Cabin permit holders will be advised before permit issuance and in the permit that DNR does not assume liability due to loss or damage to the cabin from wildfires and will not provide fire protection if the fire management plan does not call for such protection in the area.

Chistochina River Trail Management. These trails provide access to the upper Chistochina River. Use of the Chistochina River Trail and East Fork Chistochina River Trail by heavy equipment (cats, graders, large trucks) currently requires a permit. Permits should require heavy equipment operators to avoid use of snowmachine and dogsled trails where alternate routes exist. The trails should be better signed to indicate which trails are for snowmachine and dogsled use.

Backscatter Radar. If the USAF selects a site in this area for the proposed backscatter radar facility, the facility should be developed to minimize impacts on fish, wildlife, and recreation resources. Access roads will be designed to minimize impacts on habitats and to enhance public use of state lands.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Settlement
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 29 - Gakona-Chistochina-Slana River Drainages

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
29A	State, State selected	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation Remote cabins	Open to mineral entry except certain streams (see guidelines)	Available for leasing	Land offerings	Remote cabins permitted; see guidelines for remote cabins
29B	State, State-Native selected	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Settlement	Open to mineral entry except East Fork Chistochina River	Available for leasing	Trapping cabins in land offering area	Mankomen Lake - estimated net land offering 500 acres

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 29 - Upper Gakona, Chistochina, and Slana River Drainages

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	29A	29B
Fish	salmon - s/r steelhead - s	salmon - s/r steelhead - s
Forestry	low	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	moderate to low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	variable, dog sledding, snow- mobiling, some floating potential	high for fishing, boating, camping at Mankomen Lake
Settlement Suitability	generally low, many scattered existing cabins	moderate, some cabins
Transportation	Tok Cut-off Hwy., landing areas	airstrip, floatplanes
Wildlife	A-2 (caribou), B-1 and B2 habitats, some trumpeter swan nesting areas	A-2 habitat - moose

Important trails:

Subunit 29A: Indian Creek and Ahtel Creek Trails from Glenn Hwy. (Tok Cut-off). Both reserved by 17(b) easements. Trail from Tok Cut-off, near Cobb Lakes, north towards the Dome. Slana River winter trail.

Chistochina trails - From west side of river at Tok Cut-off. Portion through Ahtna, Inc. lands reserved through ANCSA 17(b) easement. Trails branch out into main fork and middle fork. This trail is the primary land access to the Chistochina - Slate Creek mining area.

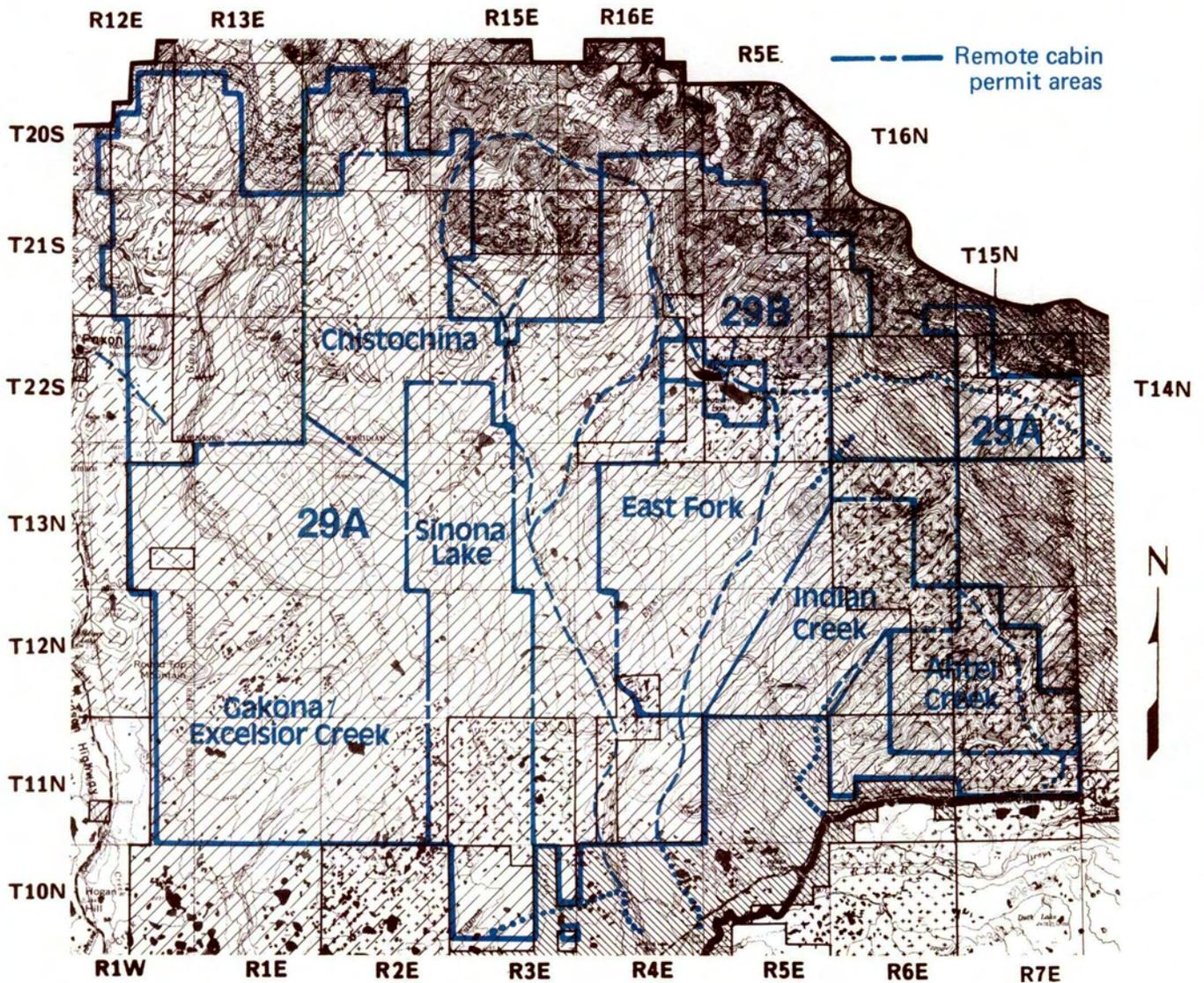
Subunits 29A and 29B: East Fork Chistochina trail leaves Tok Cut-off east of river; 17(b) easement reserved across Ahtna land.

Mankomen Lake Trail - North side of Slana River from Mentasta to Mankomen Lake; connects with Chistochina trails; reserved by 17(b) easement across Ahtna lands.

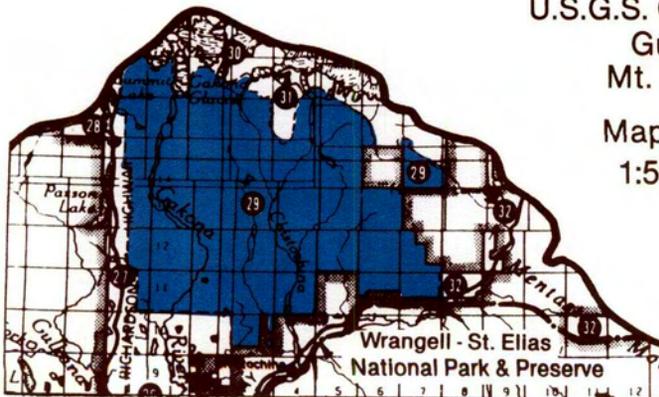
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 29

Upper Gakona/Chistochina/Slana River Drainage



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:

Gulkana
Mt. Hayes

Map scale:
1:500,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 30: Alaska Range

Background

This management unit includes state-owned and state-selected land in the Alaska Range. The land is steep, mountainous terrain with many small glaciers and a few large glaciers that feed major rivers. Some peaks rise to impressive heights, with Mount Kimball the tallest at 10,350 feet. The area has been prospected for minerals, although most significant finds and active claims lie further south (see management unit 31). The land is not suitable for settlement, has no trees, and is not very productive wildlife habitat. Some recreation occurs on Gakona Glacier. The area, especially Mt. Kimball, has potential for mountain climbing and glacier sports.

Management Intent

This land is owned by the state and will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use. The entire area is open to mineral entry.

Management Guidelines

The area-wide management guidelines contained in Chapter 2 apply to land uses in this management unit.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 30 - Alaska Range

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
30	State	Resource management, low value	Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

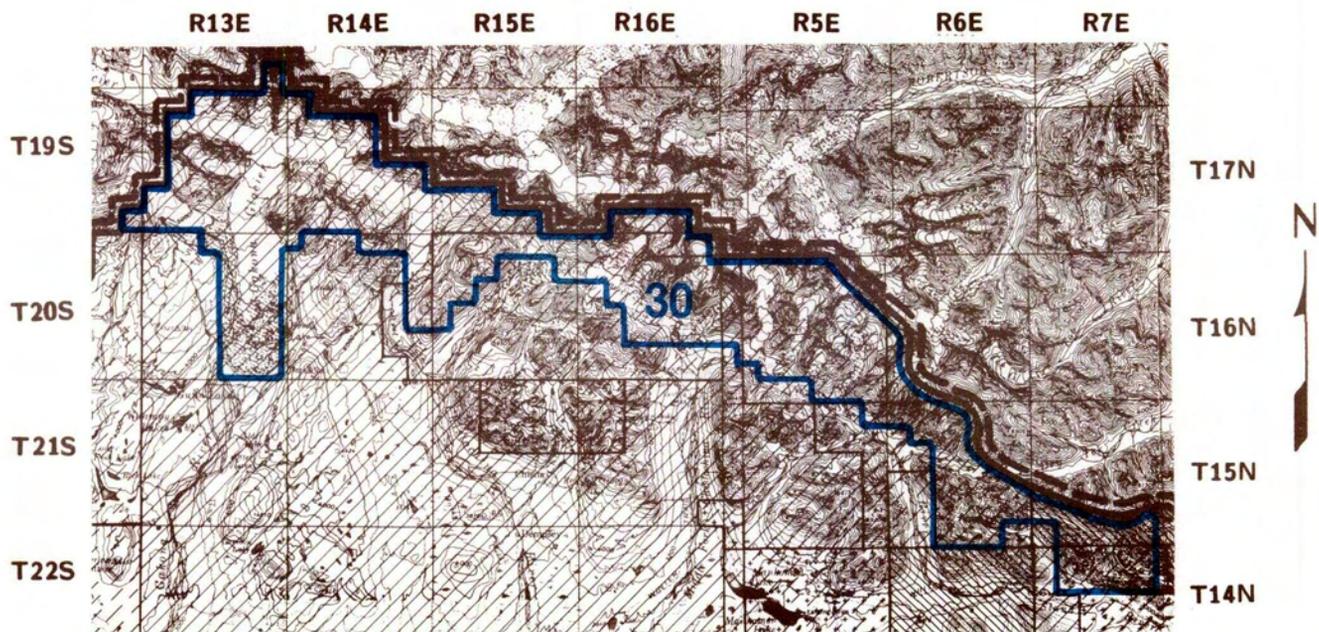
Management Unit 30 - Alaska Range

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	30
Fish	unsurveyed
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	various areas are high, moderate & low
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	high for mountain climbing; low for other uses. Glacier sports popular on Gakona Glacier
Settlement Suitability	unsuitable
Transportation	skiplane
Wildlife	not rated

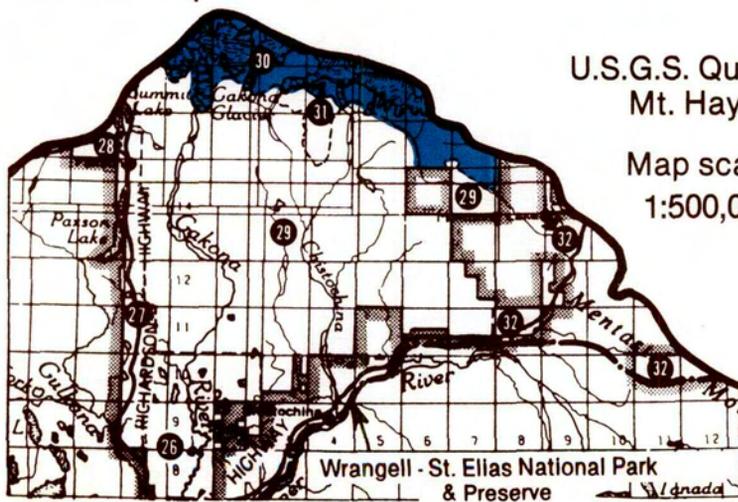
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 30

Alaska Range



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Mt. Hayes

Map scale:
1:500,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal

ACE 6329570

MANAGEMENT UNIT 31: Slate Creek - Chisna River

Background

This unit consists of state-owned and state-selected land in the upper Chistochina River drainage with moderate to high mineral potential. The Slate Creek - Chisna River area is intensively mined and has numerous patented mineral surveys and state mining claims. Access is via the Chistochina Trail for heavy equipment and via air for people and freight. There are numerous private airstrips in the area. The area is mountainous terrain above treeline. It has been mined since the early 1900s; primary minerals produced are gold and silver.

Management Intent

This unit will be retained in state ownership for multiple use with emphasis on mining and will remain open to mineral entry. There are numerous mining claims in the Slate Creek and Chisna River valleys. Wildlife Habitat is also designated a primary use because much of the land in this unit is not mined and provides habitat for wildlife.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Materials
- Subsurface resources

**LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 31 - Slate Creek**

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
31	State, state selected	Minerals Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Slate Creek - Chisna River mining area

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 31 - Slate Creek - Chisna River

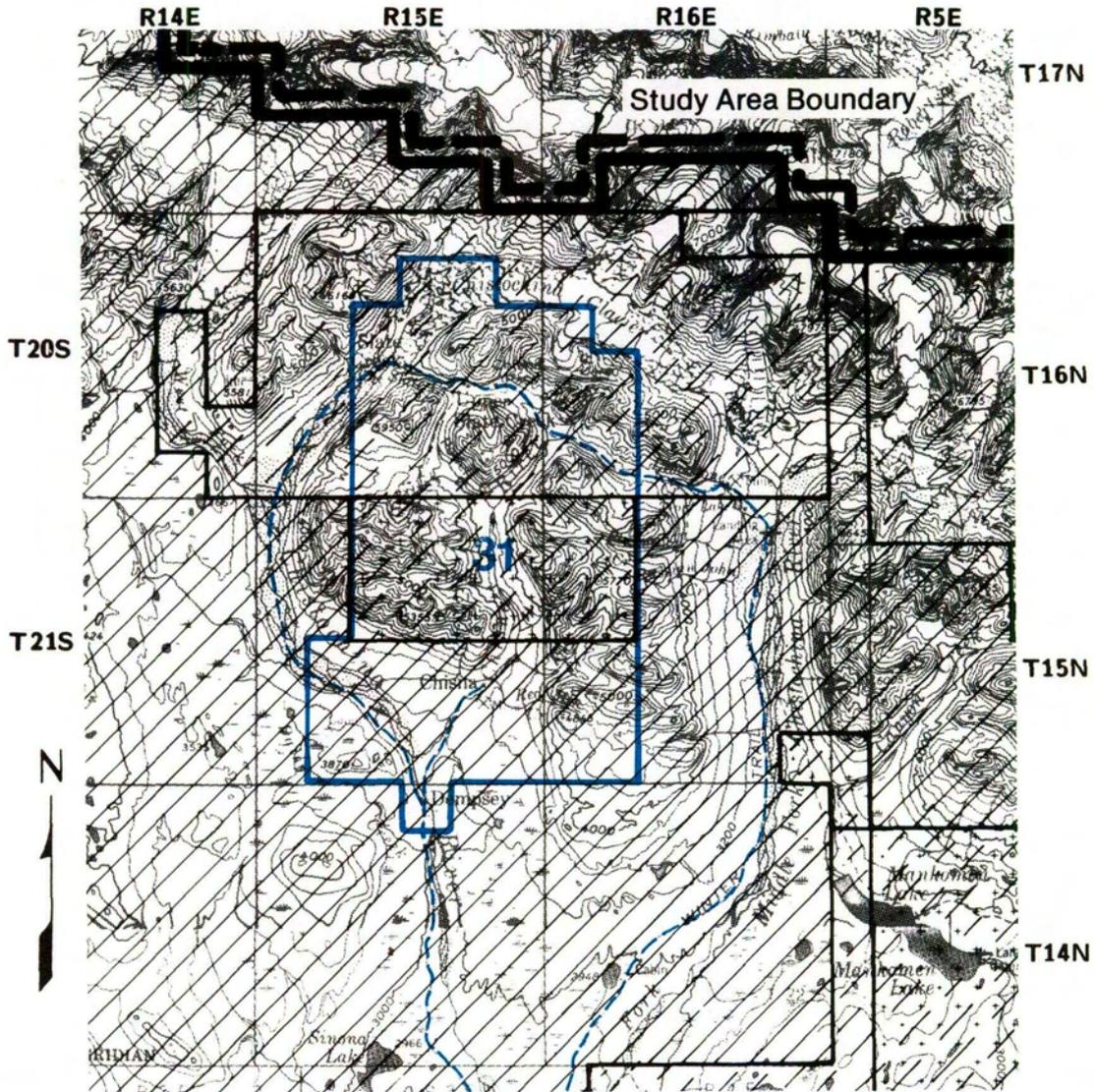
RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	31A
Fish	none documented
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	high for mining history
Minerals	moderate to high; active placer mining for gold
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	moderate - hiking potential but remote
Settlement Suitability	low
Transportation	several private airstrips and mining roads
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - moose; B-2 habitat

Important trails: Access via Chistochina River trail system (see management unit 29).

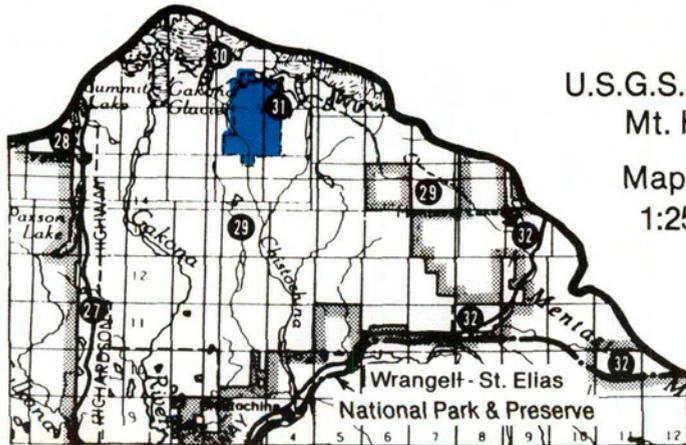
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 31

Slate Creek



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Mt. Hayes

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 32: Slana-Mentasta

Background

This management unit includes several scattered tracts of state-owned and state-selected land north of Slana, at Carlson Lake, north of Mentasta, and in the Mentasta mountains. Most of the land with multiple resource values has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. The land is now used for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Prospecting has occurred in the past, but there is no active mining in the area. Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site is a 5-acre, well-used camping facility. Many of the campers want to visit the nearby Wrangell - St. Elias National Park, which has no camping facilities. The Slana River is used by many canoeists because it is slow, meandering, and scenic. State land in subunit 32E, north of Mentasta, does not appear to have useable legal access. Land between the road and subunit 32E has been conveyed to Ahtna, Inc. There is no useable easement to subunit 32E. No significant resources have been identified on this land that would justify acquiring better access at this time. Some of the land in management subunit 32A may be suitable for settlement; however, the land status is uncertain and may remain unresolved for many years.

Management Intent

State land in this unit will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, hunting, fishing, and dispersed recreation. Carlson Lake, if conveyed into state ownership, will be managed as a recreation lake (see p. 2-41).

State land in this unit, except the recreation site and Ahtel Creek, are open to mineral entry. Lower sections of Ahtel Creek will be closed to protect salmon spawning areas.

Management Subunit 32B is the existing Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site. The existing facility includes only 5 acres of state-owned land. This is a popular campground because it is on the Tok cut-off from the Alaska Highway to Southcentral Alaska and is on the northern border of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park. This part of the National Park is accessible via the Nabesna Road; however, the Park Service has no plans to provide a campground in the area. As a result, the Porcupine Creek facility will need room for expansion. If the state receives title to land around the existing site, land suitable for expansion of the facility will be added to the recreation site.

Management Guidelines

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership.

Slana River Access. The state should ensure that a public access easement to the Slana River at the Nabesna Road bridge is retained or acquired.

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Ahtel Creek and the creek itself is closed to mineral location.

Trails. Any additional land conveyances to Native corporations in the Bear Creek Valley should include consideration that public access to public land in Upper Bear Creek Valley is retained.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 32 - Slana/Mentasta
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
32A	State-Native selected	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry except Ahtel Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
32B	State-Native selected	Recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins Land leases	Porcupine Creek State recreation site
32C	State-Native selected	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Carlson Lake
32D	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Includes selection along Slana River

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 32 - Slana/Mentasta
(Page 2 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
32E	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
32F	State	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 32 - Slana-Mentasta (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	32A	32B	32C	32D
Fish	salmon	none docum.	none docum.	salmon
Forestry	low	low	low	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high for floating and fishing along Slana River	existing recreation site - Porcupine Creek	high for fishing, hiking and camping - Carlson Lake	high for floating and fishing along Slana River
Settlement Suitability	variable	moderate	moderate	low, moderate
Transportation	Tok Cut-off Hwy., Duffy's Tavern airstrip	Tok Cut-off Hwy.	Tok Cut-off Hwy.	Tok Cut-off Hwy., Old Mentasta Rd.
Wildlife	B-1 and B-2 habitats	B-1 habitat	B-1 and B-2 habitats	B-1 and B-2 habitats

Important trails:

Subunit 32A: Historic Eagle Trail from Slana - Porcupine Creek to Mentasta.

Subunit 32C: Trail to Carlson Lake from Tok Cut-off; reserved via 17(b) easement.

Notes: Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site is in 32B

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 32 - Slana-Mentasta (page 2 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	32E	32F
Fish	none documented	none documented
Forestry	low	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	low	low
Settlement Suitability	low	unsuitable
Transportation	none	none
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

=====

Important trails:

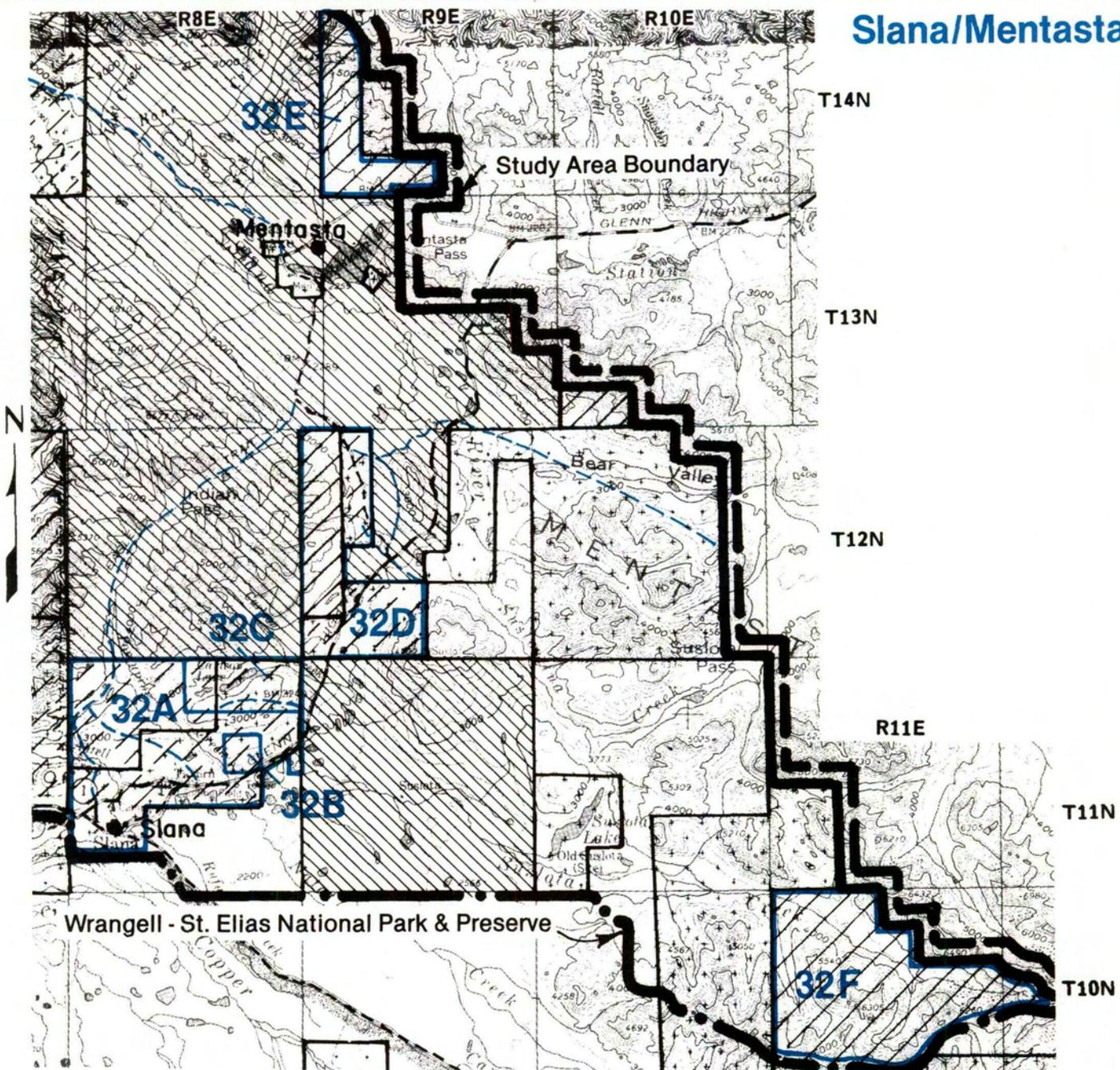
Subunit 32E: Trail along old road reserved from Tok Cut-off via ANCSA section 17(b) easement.

Subunit 32F: Appears to have no developed access; only access would be via section line easement.

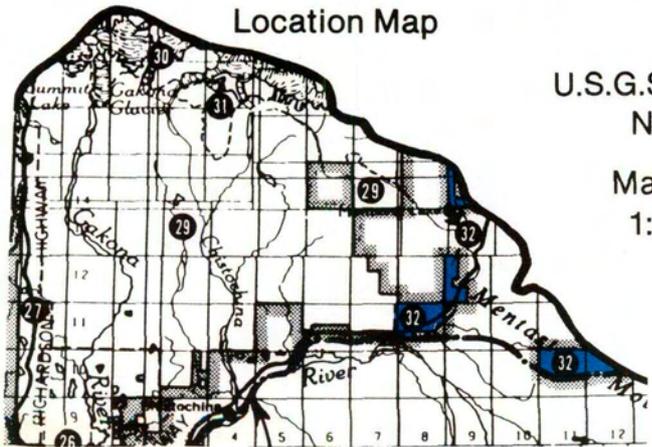
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 32

Slana/Mentasta



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Nebesna
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.

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MANAGEMENT UNIT 33: Copper and Chitina Rivers, Other Navigable Tributaries

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned shorelands under the Copper River, Chitina River, and other navigable tributaries of the Copper River that are not included in other management units. The state owns land under the beds of navigable waterways (these are called shorelands) as defined under federal law. A determination of navigability is made when land is transferred out of federal ownership or when requested by a federal land manager or DNR.

The Copper River is navigable upstream from the delta through T. 10 N., R. 7 E., CRM, near Slana. The Copper River delta and lower river are in the Prince William Sound Planning Area. The Chitina River has been determined to be navigable from the Copper River upstream through T. 5 S., R. 7 E., CRM, and is likely to meet the navigability requirements upstream to the Nizina or Tana River. The Nizina River may also be navigable (and therefore state owned) upstream to the Chitistone River.

The Copper and Chitina rivers are glacier fed and carry enormous sediment loads, particularly in summer months. They are also subject to floods from glacial outburst lakes in their headwaters or tributaries.

The entire Chitina River is within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The National Park Service draft General Management Plan for the park and preserve states that the Park Service will oppose any 'actions activities, or uses... that will alter the beds of these lands or the natural meandering of river channels or result in adverse effects on water quality or the abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife species.'

These rivers are used for recreation (primarily river floating), fishing, and winter transportation routes. The river corridors provide important moose habitat, although very little of the vegetated riparian habitat is state owned. State ownership is largely confined to the riverbeds and gravel bars. The state owns land east of the Copper River near Tazlina and Gulkana (see MU 21D and MU 22A) and along the Chitina and Nizina Rivers near McCarthy (see MU 24 and MU 25). Most of the land along the Copper River from south of Chitina all the way to Indian River is owned by Native corporations or other private landowners. Access has been reserved across Native lands to the river at some key points under Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Management Intent

The state will manage the Chitina River and any navigable tributaries for multiple use with emphasis on public recreation. Due to annual flooding from glacier-dammed outburst lakes and frequently shifting river channels, no permits or leases should be issued that allow for structures to be built in the river or on state-owned gravel bars.

The state will manage the Copper River and any navigable tributaries for multiple use with emphasis on recreation, fishing, and transportation. These lands will remain open to mineral entry.

Management Guidelines

Access to Copper River at Chitina - O'Brien Creek. The state should ensure that the public is provided adequate access to the Copper River at O'Brien Creek for fishing and other uses. Four options exist:

1. Encourage Chitina Native Corp. to continue the current policy of providing access with a user fee charged.
2. Acquire, through purchase, a public easement for access and use.
3. Acquire ownership of the land through a land exchange.
4. Assert an RS 2477 right-of-way (this may result in litigation).

Shorelands within Wrangell - St. Elias National Park (Chitina River and other navigable waters). DNR will notify the Superintendent of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve of any requests for permits, leases, or other authorizations for use of state shorelands within the boundary of the national park and preserve and provide an opportunity for comment on these proposals.

Anadromous Fish Protection. Mining activity in the Copper and Chitina Rivers and most navigable streams would be subject to provisions of Alaska Statutes Title 16 which protect anadromous fish. The National Park Service has suggested that these streams be closed to mineral location to protect water quality and due to access problems. Such closures are not needed to protect water quality because natural sediments are high. The National Park Service also has regulations that govern access within the park.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Stream corridors and instream flow

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT: 33 - Copper and Chitina Rivers, Other Navigable Tributaries

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
33	State navigable waters	Public recreation Water resources Wildlife habitat	Transportation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing Land offerings Remote cabins	

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 33 - Copper River and Chitina Rivers, Other Navigable Tributaries

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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	33

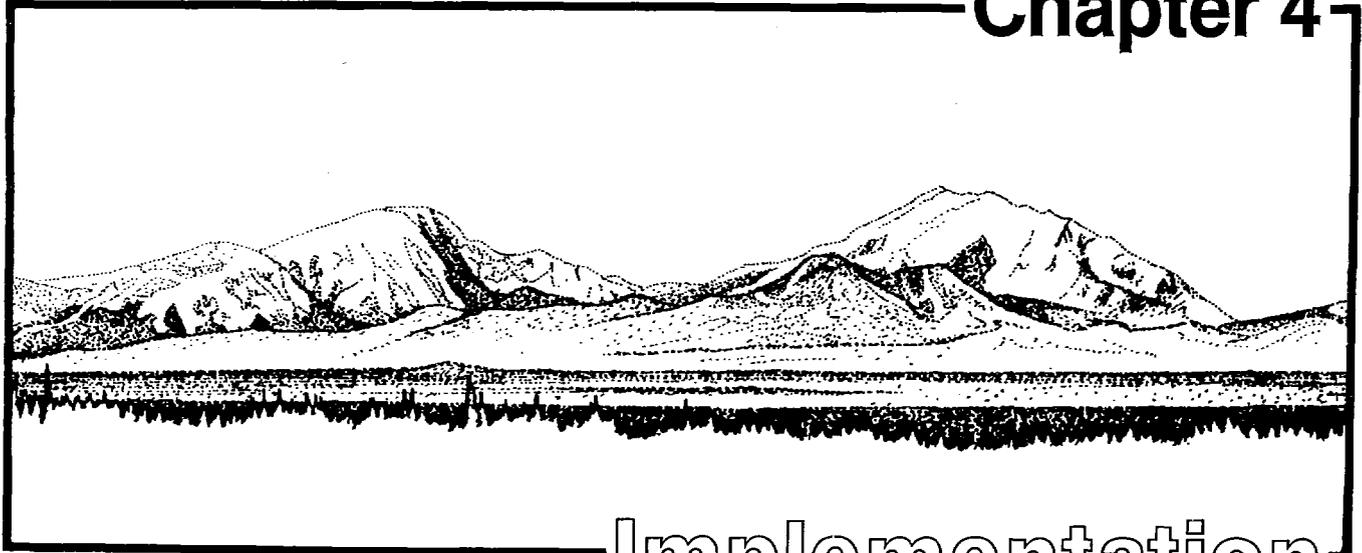
Fish	salmon - s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	N/A
Historic-Cultural	sites along riverbanks
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	unknown
Recreation	high along Copper River and Chitina River for floating and Copper River below Chitina
Sand and Gravel	extensive resources
Settlement Suitability	N/A
Transportation	Copper River & Chitina River - navigable
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - moose

=====

Important trails, access: Numerous easements and rights-of-way to Copper River. Access to Chitina River is via boat or overland.

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

Chapter 4



Implementation

CHAPTER 4

Implementation

Introduction

This chapter describes the actions necessary to implement the land use policies proposed by this plan. Included are proposed selections, relinquishments, and exchanges; proposed cooperative agreements; land use classifications; management planning priorities; recommendations for legislative designations; and procedures for plan modification and amendment.

Proposed Selections, Relinquishments, and Exchanges

The Copper River Basin Area Plan identifies several areas within the basin for future state selections, relinquishment of selections, or land exchanges. This section provides details of these selections and relinquishments and also discusses other land ownership issues. The maps on pages 4-3 and 4-5 delineate these selections and relinquishments.

ADDITIONAL STATE SELECTIONS

The state is entitled to select additional lands for state ownership from vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved public lands. In the Copper River Basin, there are over 1 million acres of federal lands that the state could still select. Most of this land is in the Tielkel Block, Denali Block, or near Slana.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tielkel Block. This area, approximately 500,000 acres, has been considered for state selection in the past, but was rejected due to limited resource values and because BLM's management objectives for most of these lands are similar to those of the state. Primary resource values are fish and wildlife habitat. Some forestry, recreation, and mineral potential exists on this land. The Richardson Highway traverses part of this area, but is presently withdrawn from state selection. Three specific parts of the Tielkel Block are proposed for state selections; the state is not interested in selecting the entire Tielkel Block as proposed by BLM.

- a. **Proposed Thompson Pass - Mt. Billy Mitchell Selection.** The state owns the Thompson Pass and Worthington Glacier area. The area to the east of the pass along the Richardson Highway also includes spectacular scenery with excellent recreation opportunities. This area includes the lower Tsina River, and the middle section of the Tielkel River, and Mount Billy Mitchell. It should be selected by the state to be managed for recreation and included in any future recreation area.

The federal BLM manages the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Utility Corridor that was withdrawn from state selection by Public Land Order (PLO) 5150. Part of the proposed selection lies within PLO 5150. The state has requested that the Secretary of the Interior remove this withdrawal. To date, the secretary has not

honored the state's request. This withdrawal in the Copper River Basin includes all federal land along the Richardson Highway from Sourdough to Paxson Lake and from Tonsina to the Tsina River.

Most of the area is alpine; most good forest lands along the Tiekel River are north of this selection (see area "c"). The proposed selection encompasses approximately 46,000 acres.

Legal Description: T. 7 S., R. 1 E., Sections 13-36; T. 7 S., R. 1 W., Sections 13-36; T. 8 S., R. 1 E., Sections 1-18; T. 8 S., R. 1 W., Sections 1-18. All CRM.

- b. **Tonsina Plateau Area.** The state should select approximately 7,000 acres of land located east of the Richardson Highway and west of Bernard Creek. A gravel road passes through the western part of this tract. The road is in good condition from the south, but impassible to most vehicles at its northern end due to landslides. The land is well drained with mixed deciduous and coniferous tree cover and is on a plateau (elevation 2,100 to 2,400 feet) above the Tonsina River valley. The land has potential for low density settlement and, if acquired by the state, will be offered for private ownership. The land is outside PLO 5150. A small part of the Bernard Creek Valley is included in the selection. The Bernard Creek valley would be retained in state ownership because of its fish and wildlife values and to protect an important trail to Kimball Pass.

Legal Description: T. 3 S., R. 1 E., Sections 1, 11-14, 23-26; T. 3 S., R. 2 E., Sections 6, 7, 18, 19. All CRM.

- c. **Richardson Highway Corridor from Tonsina to Tsina River.** Land along the Richardson Highway has some settlement and forestry potential and is an important transportation and utility corridor. In addition to the highway, the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline and Valdez-Copper River electric intertie follow this route. The draft plan identifies several areas suitable for land offerings in this corridor.

The state should select the entire highway and utility corridor. Land west of the corridor, between state land near Tonsina Lake and the corridor (65,000 acres), should not be selected by the state because it is mountainous terrain with limited resource values.

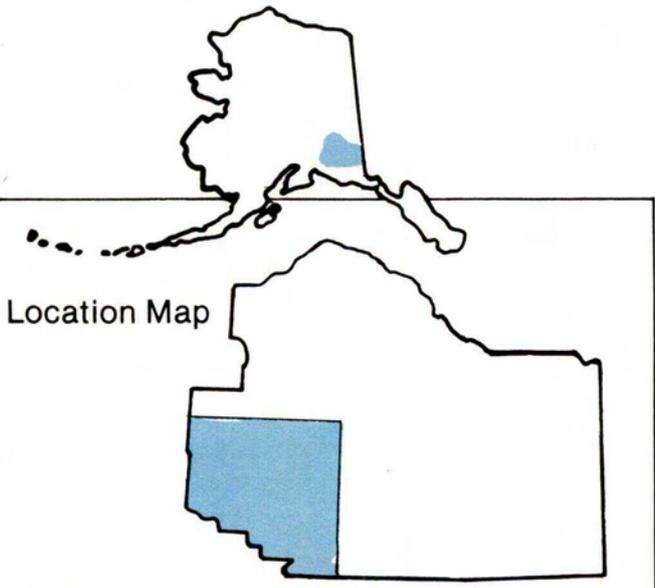
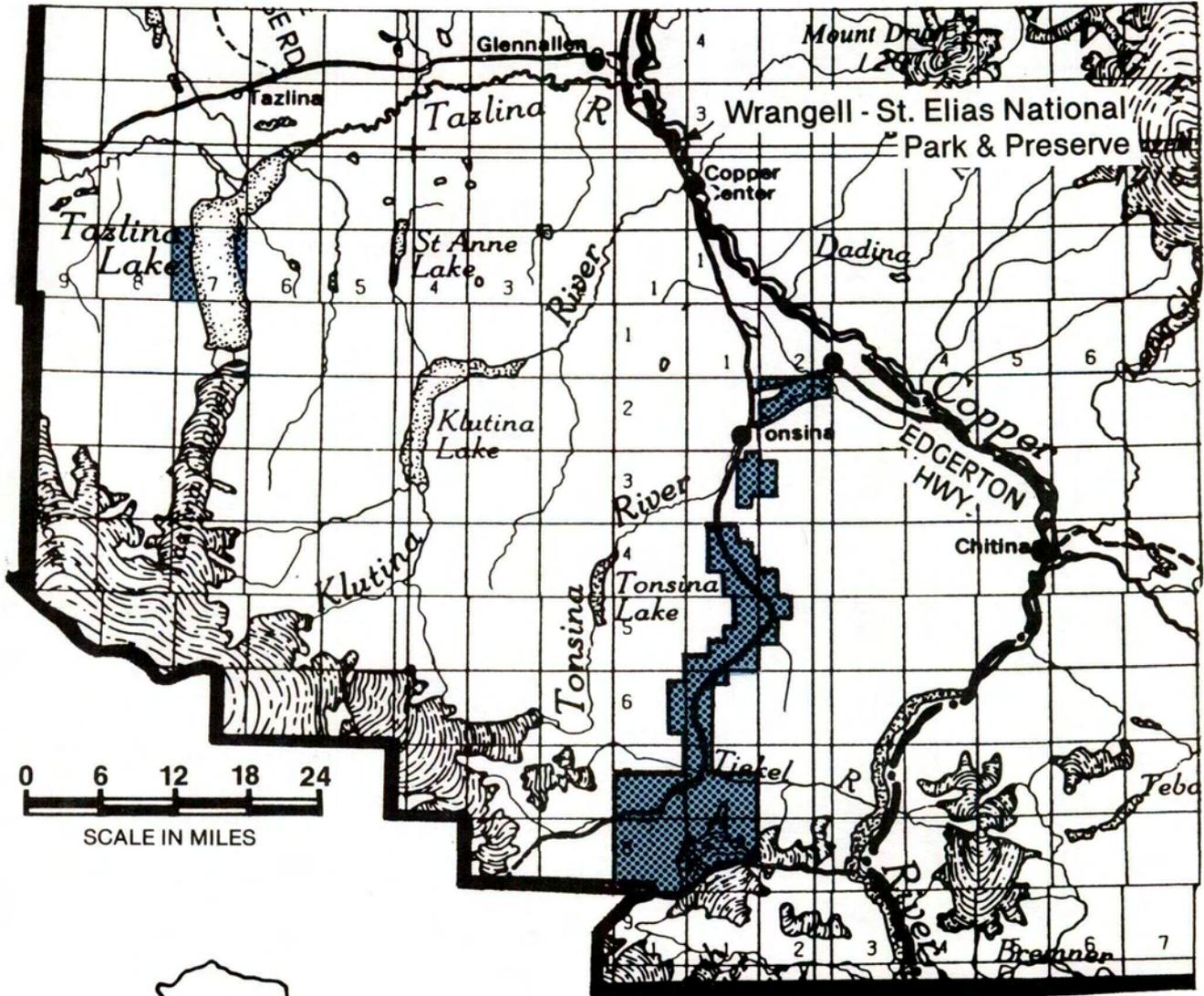
The corridor is temporarily withheld from state selection by PLO 5150 [see description in 1(a)].

Total selections would be approximately 49,920 acres.

Legal Descriptions: T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Sections 30, 31; T. 4 S., R. 1 E., Sections 3-10, 14-36; T. 5 S., R. 2 E., Sections 5-8, 18-19; T. 5 S., R. 1 E., Sections 1, 2, 11-14, 22-28, 31-36; T. 6 S., R. 1 E., Sections 4-8, 17-20, 29-32; T. 6 S., R. 1 W., Sections 13, 24, 25; T. 7 S., R. 1 E., Sections 5-8. All CRM.

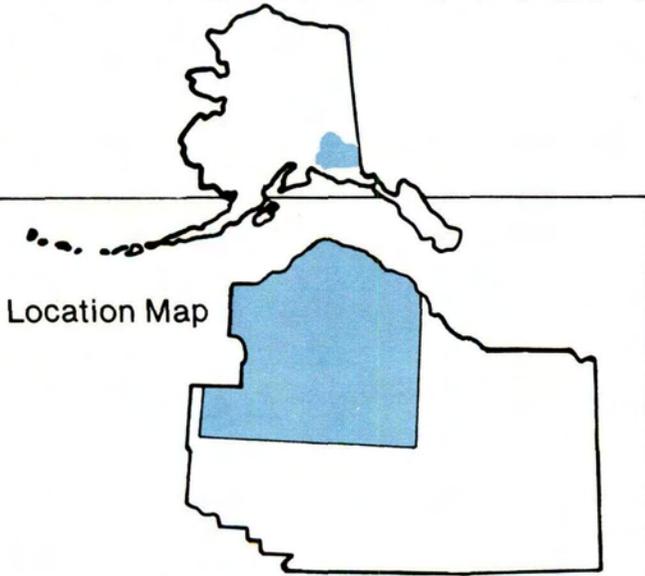
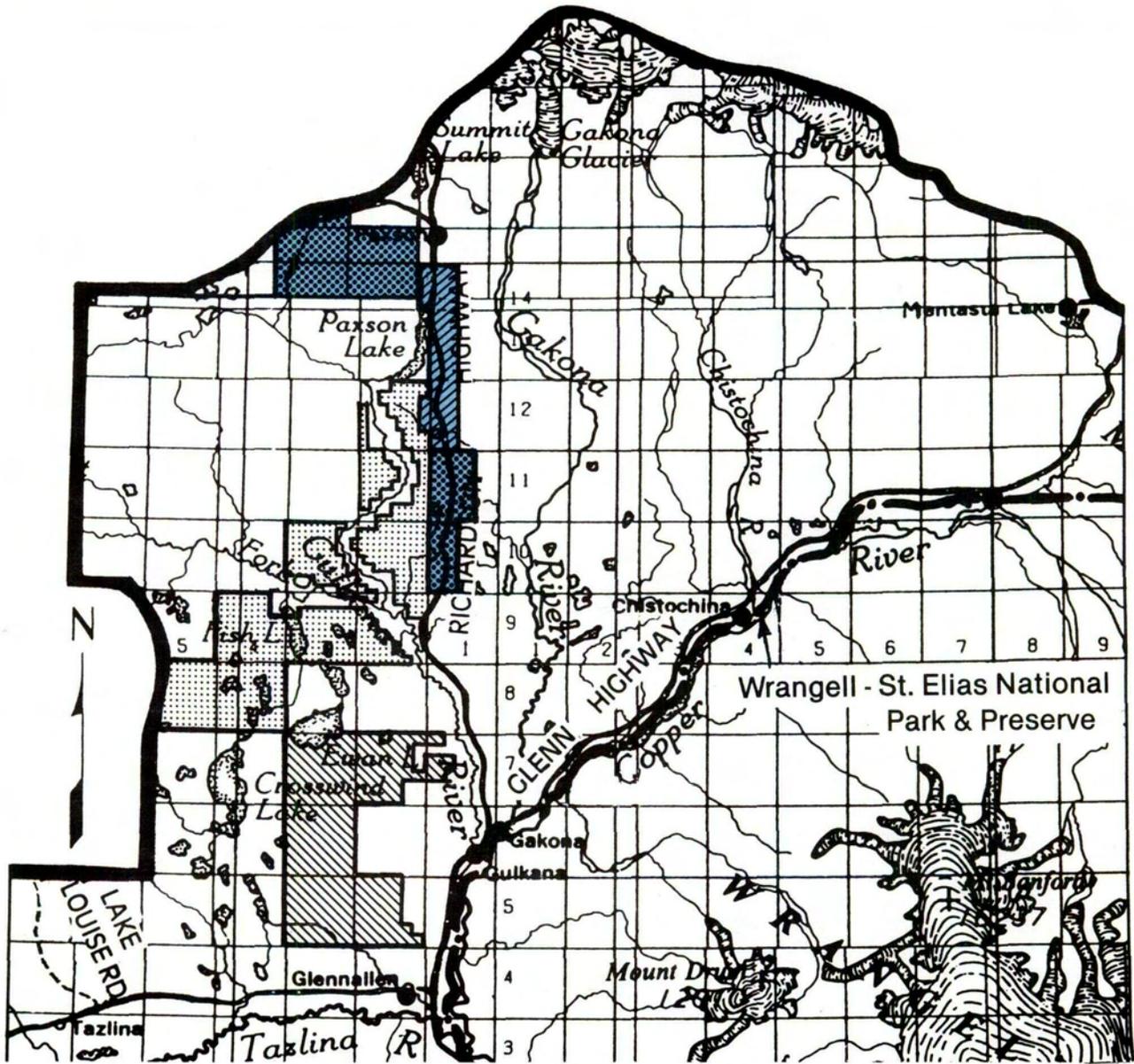
North Richardson Highway Corridor. The land ownership pattern along the Richardson Highway from Sourdough to Paxson is confusing. Several federal land withdrawals and state selections made at different times affect land in this area. Most of this area lies within the area withheld by PLO 5150 [see description under 1(a)].

SELECTIONS & RELINQUISHMENTS



 New Selections

SELECTIONS & RELINQUISHMENTS



-  New Selections
-  Suspended Selections
-  Relinquishments
-  Possible Relinquishments

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A few of these areas are already selected by the state; however, most selections will not become valid until PLO 5150 is lifted. Much of this land meets the criteria for state selection because of its recreation, transportation, wildlife, and settlement values. The land is also used for access to other state-owned land to the east.

The state should acquire most land within the utility corridor and the area outside the corridor that surrounds Paxson at the junction of the Denali and Richardson Highways. Land near Paxson and Meiers Lake has settlement potential. Some areas around Meiers Lake are used as camping areas. The Hogan Hill area offers excellent views of the Wrangell mountains and has been proposed as the location for a scenic pullout. The state would select about 60,000 acres of land in this area and may need to reassert other selections in the area when PLO 5150 is revoked. Land surrounding Paxson Lake is withdrawn by BLM for public recreation through PLO 225.

Legal Description: T. 10 N., R. 1 W., CRM. Section 4-9, 16-21, 28-33 (all in PLO 5150); T. 11 N., R. 1 W., CRM Sections 3-10, 15-22, 27, 28, 30-34 (all in PLO 5150); T. 22 S., R. 12 E., F.M., Sections 1-36. CRM.

Denali Highway. On November 12, 1986, the state filed selections on over 2 million acres of federal land along the Denali Highway. These selections border the Copper River Basin area. The purpose of these selections was to give the state the option of receiving title to high value recreation, habitat, and mineral lands along the Denali Highway. The state should select the remaining land between Paxson and these selections to the east because their resource values are similar to lands selected on November 12. DNR will evaluate these selections to determine which land the state desires to receive title to: the township including Swede Lake, the township including Paxson Mountain, and part of the township west of management unit 28B that includes the Denali Highway. This block of land is incorporated in management unit 28B.

Legal Description: T. 22 S., R. 10 E.; T. 21 S., R. 10 E; T. 22 S., R. 11 E. FM.

Edgerton Highway Area and Tonsina River. Land along the Edgerton Highway between Kenny Lake and the Richardson Highway has been identified as a potential land offering. Land along the Tonsina River south of the Edgerton Highway has high recreation and habitat values. The land is Native selected; however, if it is not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., the state should acquire this land. The state should top-file a selection on this area. The area encompasses approximately 4,500 acres:

Legal description: T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Sections 1 - 10 (parts). CRM.

OTHER LAND CONSIDERED FOR STATE SELECTION

BLM land in the Slana Area - Mentasta Mountains. Several isolated blocks of BLM land (less than 100,000 acres), some of which have also been selected by Native corporations, were previously not selected by the state because of their limited resource values. Some of these BLM lands have been made available for settlement by the federal government and are no longer available for state selection. The Copper River plan currently proposes no new state selections in this area.

STATE SELECTIONS - PRIORITIES FOR ADJUDICATION AND CONVEYANCE

The state annually submits to BLM a list of lands it wants to receive conveyance on. This action lets the state receive title to higher quality land according to the state's priorities. The list should include, but is not be limited to, several areas in the Copper River Basin:

Klutina Lake Area (MU 12A)
Tazlina Lake Area (MU 8A and 8B)
Tonsina Lake Area (MU 14A and 14B)
Porcupine Creek Area (MU 32B)
Edgerton Highway - Kenny Lake Area (MU 18A, 18B, and 18C)
Slate Creek Area (MU 31)

Two areas will be added to the priority list for tentative approval after the new selections are filed with BLM:

Tiekel Selections (MU 16 and 17)
Sourdough - Paxson Selections (MU 27)

STATE SELECTIONS PROPOSED FOR RELINQUISHMENT

As land-ownership patterns become more certain, some tracts of state-selected lands become isolated or cut-off from larger blocks of state land which makes them difficult to manage. Further resource inventory may also indicate that the resource values original selections were based on are lower or lacking altogether. Because the state has selected more land than it will receive from the federal government, the state should reevaluate remaining selected lands within the basin to determine if some of these no longer meet state selection guidelines or are of lower value than state-selected land elsewhere and should thus be relinquished. Several areas are identified for relinquishment. Approximate acreage of all these areas totals 151,000 acres. Relinquishments should wait until the BLM honors the right of the state to select within the utility corridor (PLO 5150).

West of Gulkana River Area. Two blocks of state-selected lands west of the Gulkana River are cut off from remaining state lands and the river by the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridor. These lands would be inefficient for DNR to manage, are not readily accessible, and the state's management objectives can be met by BLM ownership. The land is adjacent to the BLM Denali Block. Approximately 24,000 acres of selections would be relinquished.

Legal Description: T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Sections 5-6; T. 9 N., R. 3 W., Sections 1, 2; T. 10 N., R. 2 W., Sections 31-32; T. 10 N., R. 3 W., Sections 2-10, 15-23, 25-36. All CRM.

Fish and Ewan Lakes and West Fork - Gulkana River. The state has selections (some in conflict with Ahtna, Inc., selections) on over 220,000 acres of land around Ewan and Fish Lakes and east of the Gulkana River below Paxson Lake. These lands have some settlement values, but are considered to have high habitat values for nesting trumpeter swans. The large lakes are also good for sport fishing. Most of the area is relatively flat, wet, and primarily covered by sedges, brush, or open water.

The state will relinquish 86,000 acres of land near Fish Lake. Those lands not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., would be managed by the BLM as part of the adjacent Denali Block or Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridor. The state and BLM should have a cooperative agreement to ensure protection of trumpeter swan nesting habitat in this area or any other swan habitat area before relinquishment.

Legal description of land to be relinquished: T. 8 N., R. 4 W., entire township; T. 8 N., R. 5 W., Sections 1-4, 9-17, 26, 36; T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Sections 7, 16-22, 27-35; T. 9 N., R. 3 W., Sections 8-36; T. 9 N., R. 4 W., entire township;

The plan defers a decision on relinquishments in the area south of Ewan Lake and east of Crosswind Lake until Native land selections in the area are conveyed, relinquished, or rejected. Most of this area has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. Should Ahtna receive title to all or most of these selections, the state should acquire any small remaining tracts of land that would abut state land. If a large part of this area is not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., the state should acquire any land that abuts existing tracts of state land and that does not abut BLM land. Such areas would be inefficient for BLM to manage. Where large blocks of land adjoin BLM land (such as near Ewan or Fish Lakes), these lands should be managed by BLM and the state should relinquish these selections.

Legal description of lands where decision should be deferred: T. 6 N., R. 3 W., entire township; T. 7 N., R. 1 W., Sections 5, 6, 16-20; T. 7 N., R. 2 W., Sections 1-11, 14-24, 27-34; T. 7 N., R. 3 W., entire township, all CRM.

Any lands in this area that are not relinquished but have high concentrations of nesting swans will be managed subject to the guidelines for "Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas," on page 2-10.

Land Between Gulkana River and Richardson Highway. The state will relinquish another 41,000 acres between the Richardson Highway and the Gulkana River. This land is swampy and unsuitable for transportation or settlement. The land is important caribou habitat and is adjacent to the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River. BLM management can protect these public values.

Legal description: T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Sections 1-3, 10, 11; T. 10 N., R. 2 W., entire township;* T. 10 N., R. 3 W., Sections 12, 13;* T. 11 N., R. 2 W., Sections 1, 2, 11-14, 24-26, 33-36;* T. 12 N., R. 2 W., Sections 1-4, 8-11, 14-17, 21-23, 25-28, 34-36. All CRM.

* combined with relinquishments in the area west of the Gulkana River above, the state would relinquish the entire township.

STATE LANDS - CANDIDATES FOR LAND EXCHANGE

Land or interests in land may be transferred by exchange. Under state law, DNR can trade state land for other land of equal appraised value when it is in the state's best interest to do so. Any exchange of unequal value requires legislative approval.

The National Park Service is interested in land exchanges in the Copper River Basin to acquire certain state-owned lands within Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

Land exchanges may be pursued to consolidate state land holdings and create land ownership and use patterns that would result in more effective management of state land and would facilitate the objectives of state programs or other public purposes. For example, land exchanges can be pursued to improve access, make better land available for sale or development, or protect important natural resources. The following are state lands that other parties have expressed interest in acquiring or are private lands that the state may wish to consider acquiring through exchange or some other method. In all cases, only the land that the state or another party wishes to acquire is mentioned; the reciprocal part of an exchange is not identified. Lands suitable for exchange are not limited to those identified here; other state lands may be considered for exchanges. Any exchange would require public review and a determination that the exchange is in the state's best interest.

Land exchanges discussed in the area plan identify possible trading lands and may initiate discussions between the owners. These will not be mandates for exchanges; individual exchanges require extensive negotiations between the concerned parties, who in the end may or may not agree to the exchange. The objectives of the state may also be achieved through cooperative agreements rather than land exchanges.

McCarthy Area. The state has patent to over 18,000 acres of land near McCarthy within the boundary of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This land is in two large blocks, one west of McCarthy along the Chitina-McCarthy Road and the other south and east of McCarthy along the Nizina River. In 1981 and 1982, the National Park Service (NPS) and the state conducted extensive negotiations for an exchange that would have resulted in NPS's acquisition of 14,200 acres of this land. However, the state dropped its interest in the exchange because of public opposition to parts of the exchange. The draft general management plan for the National Park calls for a cooperative agreement between the state and NPS for these lands and expresses interest in an exchange or acquisition by other means if the agreement cannot "provide adequate long term protection of park/preserve values." Although the draft plan proposes that the state retain title to its McCarthy area land, a land exchange could still be considered if later determined to be in the state's interest.

Copper River at Chitina. Access to the Copper River at Chitina is limited to an easement on a 1-acre site (established under Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act), a DOT/PF wayside, and other locations where the old Copper River and Northwestern Railroad right-of-way runs to the river. Much of the intensive recreational activity by the public occurs at a site further downstream where no easement is reserved. Recent conveyances to the Chitina Native Corporation have created the potential for trespass by traditional recreational and subsistence fisheries users and campers along the river. A land exchange with the Native corporation is one option whereby the state could acquire land to provide for more access to the river and adjacent uplands.

STATE LANDS - CANDIDATES FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Cooperative management agreements are intended to ensure compatible land use and management between various land owners. In many cases, cooperative management agreements can achieve purposes similar to land exchanges. The following areas have been identified as potential areas for cooperative management agreements.

Cooperative agreements listed in the plan are intended to identify areas where such agreements may be pursued in the future. These are not mandates for agreements; any cooperative agreement would require additional negotiations between the concerned parties.

State land within Wrangell - St. Elias. The state has patent, tentative approval, or valid selections to over 40,000 acres of land east of the Copper River near Glennallen and Copper Center. The National Park Service has proposed that these lands be managed under a cooperative agreement to maintain uses compatible with adjacent NPS lands and to preclude incompatible activities.

Submerged lands under navigable waterways within the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park and National Wild and Scenic River corridors. The state owns the submerged lands under navigable waterways. The Wrangell - St. Elias general management plan proposes a cooperative agreement that would close these stream beds to mining and mineral entry. The management of this land is described in management unit 33. A cooperative agreement already exists for management of the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River.

Gulkana River Management. DNR, DOT/PF, and BLM should develop a more detailed cooperative agreement to assign BLM the responsibility for managing recreation on the Gulkana River. This agreement should also specify who should manage the three trail easements and the three 1-acre-site easements reserved on Ahtna, Inc., land on the river below Sourdough; it should specify the location and management of a pull-out for river floaters at the Richardson Highway bridge at Gulkana; and it should address management of state-owned shorelands.

CONFLICTING LAND SELECTIONS

Certain land in the planning area was selected by various Native corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Most of the planning region is located within the Ahtna Region. All but one of the village corporations in the Ahtna Region have merged with the regional Native corporation, Ahtna, Inc. The Chitina Native Corporation remains independent and will retain ownership of the surface estate on 115,200 acres (when conveyed) and Ahtna, Inc., will own the subsurface on these lands. The remaining villages have a combined entitlement of 576,000 acres; the regional corporation has an entitlement of 992,031 acres. Although approximately 1.5 million acres of these lands have been conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., the corporation maintains extensive additional land selections in the region. Many of these over-selections conflict with state selections, particularly around Tonsina, Tazlina and Ewan Lakes, and north of the Glenn Highway from Gakona to Mentasta Summit (including land desired for inclusion in the Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site). BLM data from 1984 indicate that Ahtna, Inc., has overselections of 782,000 acres under 12(c); and Ahtna and Chitina have combined overselections of 274,000 acres under 12(a) and 263,000 acres under 12(b). With such extensive overselections, a majority of the conflicting land selections will become state owned land.

Unless discussed under relinquishments, the state should retain its selections on these lands. The plan specifies how the state will manage these lands if conveyed to the state.

Land Use Classifications

The plan establishes primary and secondary land use designations for state land in the region. For the plan to be implemented on state land, DNR must classify land in the categories that reflect the intent of the plan. These categories are in 11 AAC 55. Land classification is the formal record of the primary uses for which each parcel of state land will be managed. Classifications are recorded on the state status plats.

The conversion of primary use designations (described in Chapter 3) to classifications is shown in the following table.

<u>PRIMARY USE DESIGNATIONS</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
Wildlife Habitat	Wildlife Habitat Land
Public Recreation	Public Recreation Land
State Recreation Site	Public Recreation Land
Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation	Wildlife Habitat Land, Public Recreation Land
Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation Geothermal	Wildlife Habitat Land, Public Recreation Land
Wildlife Habitat, Forestry	Wildlife Habitat Land, Forest Land
Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation, Forestry	Wildlife Habitat Land, Public Recreation Land, Forest Land

Mining, Habitat
 Existing Gravel Pit
 Resource Management
 Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation,
 Forestry, Heritage Resources
 Settlement, Land Offerings
 Agriculture
 Settlement, Agriculture, Mixed
 Settlement, Forestry, Transportation

 Settlement, Transportation, Wildlife
 Habitat
 Transportation, Wildlife Habitat

 Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation,
 Water Resources
 Past Land Offering

Mineral Land, Wildlife Habitat Land
 Material Land or Reserved Use Land
 Resource Management Land
 Heritage Resource Land

 Settlement Land
 Agricultural Land
 Agricultural Land, Settlement Land
 Forest Land, Settlement Land,
 Transportation Land
 Settlement Land, Transportation Land,
 Wildlife Habitat Land
 Transportation Land, Wildlife Habitat
 Land
 Wildlife Habitat Land, Public Recreation
 Land, Water Resources Land
 Classifications generally not changed by
 plan

Management Plan Priorities

The Copper River Basin Area Plan provides an adequate level of detail to guide most land management decisions in the Copper River Basin. The existing administrative processes used by DNR for land offerings, oil and gas lease sales, and other actions can adequately deal with most site specific planning issues. Three areas where more detailed interagency planning may be needed are described below.

Thompson Pass Area. A management plan will be prepared for this area if the legislature establishes it as a recreation area.

Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek Area. A management plan will be prepared for this area if the legislature establishes it as a recreation area.

Klutina Lake and Klutina River. This area has been identified as having high values for public use and private recreation development. The entire lakeshore is privately owned or has been selected by the state and Native corporations. The entire river corridor below the lake is privately owned, although the river itself is state owned. The river and lake have high recreation potential. Once land ownership patterns are better established and if the state acquires title to a sufficient amount of land around the lake, DNR should work with Ahtna, Inc., to develop a plan for this area. Land ownership patterns around the lake will not be settled until Ahtna, Inc., is conveyed more of their entitlement or relinquishes some of their selections around the lake.

Nelchina, Little Nelchina, and Tazlina Rivers. A management plan that deals with recreation facility development including protection of cultural sites and recreation use management will eventually be needed because of increased recreation use of this river system. More active management of this area and a management plan will eventually be needed.

River Management Plan. As recreation use of numerous rivers increases and as land status patterns along certain rivers become settled, site-specific planning to identify and reserve access and campsites may be required. Such site specific management plans may be needed for the Klutina River, Tonsina River, and Copper River.

Richardson Highway Corridor Land Offerings. Before land offerings along the Richardson Highway in the Tielke area (Little Tonsina to Tsina River) and the Meiers Lake to Paxson area, more detailed planning may be needed. Issues that may need to be addressed include protection of scenic resources, avoiding hazardous areas (avalanche zones), retaining adequate land for a possible natural gas line, retaining access to adjacent public land, providing for any realignments of the Richardson Highway, and designing safe access off the Richardson Highway.

Recommendations for Legislative Designations

Several areas within the Copper River Basin are proposed by the plan for legislative designation. This means that, in certain areas with outstanding resource or public use values, the plan recommends the legislature designate state lands for long term retention and specify management of these areas. The plan can only recommend these areas be established; the final decisions are made by the legislature.

Legislative designation results in a much greater likelihood of retention in permanent public ownership than occurs under administrative land classification. Other results of legislative designation vary greatly depending on the language that establishes an area. Where the goal is maximum protection of natural resource values (for example, in an area that is critical to trumpeter swans), legislative designation can help achieve this by allowing more restrictive land management practices than are permitted under the state's multiple use mandate. Legislative designation can have a different effect in areas where the intent is to expand public use (for example, in a heavily used recreation area). In these areas, legislative designation can lead to increased public use by increasing investment in facilities (such as campgrounds, roads, or boat launches).

RECREATION AREAS

Four areas within the Copper River Basin are suitable for designation by the Alaska Legislature to protect and enhance their recreation values. The legislature should consider setting aside these areas for long term retention by the state, management in accordance with this plan, and provide appropriate funding.

Guidelines for all recreation proposals. DPOR will be responsible for preparing the legislative proposals for these areas, including management guidelines. DPOR will also create advisory groups for each area composed primarily of local residents. The advisory groups, with assistance from local-agency field staff, will formulate management guidelines and proposals. Management intent for each of these areas is outlined in Chapter 3.

DLWM will have management responsibility for the recreation areas under consultation with DPOR. The areas will be managed consistent with the guidelines stated above and the section of Chapter 3 in the plan that addresses these management units. The boundaries of the area subject to these guidelines can be found in this plan or on 1:63,360 scale maps available at public meetings or in DNR offices in Anchorage and Tazlina.

Thompson Pass (Management Unit 15A). This proposed area includes mountain peaks, glaciers, and the deep, glacier-carved valley of the Tsina River. The Richardson Highway runs through the Tsina Valley and Thompson Pass. The entire area has spectacular alpine scenery. Worthington Glacier is the most accessible glacier in the state and the most popular tourist attraction in the Copper River Basin. Summer recreation activities such as hiking and camping are popular. In the winter, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, and snow machining are popular. The pass receives

the heaviest recorded snowfall in Alaska, and the area is prone to powerful avalanches.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Valdez to Copper Basin electric intertie, and proposed routes for an Alaskan natural gas line all run through this area.

A study entitled 'Master Plan for the Proposed Keystone Canyon State Park' was prepared by Joseph Hoffman of the University of Alaska Institute of Social, Economic, and Government Research in October 1970. This proposal included the Thompson Pass area and provides a thorough description of resources in the area and possible options for management of the area.

The Thompson Pass - Tsina River area, including Blueberry Lake, (see map, management unit 15) should be actively managed for recreation. Camping facilities should be expanded, and hiking and interpretive trails should be established. Certain recreation activities also need more active management for public safety and to avoid conflicts between users. Most of these safety and user conflicts are associated with winter sports in the area. Establishment of a recreation area and subsequent development of facilities in the area would encourage visitors to spend more time in the area, which would help the local economy.

The local advisory group can make recommendations to the legislature on what specific types of legislation will be most appropriate to implement management intent as outlined in Chapter 3. The advisory group can also make a final determination of the boundaries of the Thompson Pass Recreation Area, which includes approximately 80,000 acres.

Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek Area (Management Units 5C and 5F). This area, located just north of the Glenn Highway, extends west from the Lake Louise Road to Mendeltna Creek and includes a series of small lakes north of the road (see map - management unit 5). The Kettlehole Lakes area, located along the old Lake Louise Road, offers excellent sites for camping and picnicking and affords exceptional views of Tazlina Lake, Tazlina Glacier, and the Chugach Mountains. Mendeltna Creek, from the oil well road to the Glenn Highway, has good fishing and is good for a day-long canoe or float trip.

The state should develop a campground and possibly a trail system along the old Lake Louise Road. The oil well road would be maintained as part of this facility and a put-in and possibly a campground would be built on Mendeltna Creek. The area also needs more active management to pick up trash and deter unauthorized use. The recreation area would be kept open to hunting and fishing and would be closed to new mineral entry.

When a campground is developed at this site, DPOR intends that the small campground at Tolsona Creek be closed or converted to day use. This facility is small with no room for expansion.

The area proposed for legislative designation is approximately 35,200 acres. The legislation should specify that the area remain open to fishing and hunting subject to regulations to ensure public safety.

Nelchina, Little Nelchina, and Tazlina Rivers (Management Unit 1). This area, proposed for legislative designation, consists of a corridor of state-owned land along the Little Nelchina, Nelchina, and Tazlina Rivers and the north shore of Tazlina Lake. Tazlina River is navigable from Tazlina Lake to the Copper River; therefore, the state owns the entire watercourse, including the portion that runs

through Native lands. The land is now used for hunting and river oriented recreation. A few remote parcel entries are on the south side of the Nelchina River.

The rivers from the Glenn Highway bridge (over the Little Nelchina River) to the Richardson Highway bridge (over the Tazlina River) are an excellent float trip that should receive increased use in the future. DPOR maintains a small recreation site north of the old bridge over the Little Nelchina River that serves as the starting point for many river trips. It is also possible to float down Mendeltna Creek into Tazlina Lake.

This long river corridor provides one of the few opportunities in the state for a road accessible float trip with true wilderness qualities. It will undoubtedly receive more use in the future. The area must be carefully managed to preserve its special qualities. A legislative designation will ensure its status as a recreation river. Funding will be needed to provide public campgrounds, public-use cabins, better access at the Little Nelchina River and at the Richardson Highway at Tazlina, and protection of cultural resources along Tazlina Lake.

Gulkana River (Management Unit 27C). The state owns shorelands under the Gulkana River, including the West Fork and Middle Fork, through most of the area designated by the U.S. Congress as a National Wild and Scenic River. The state also owns shorelands under the Gulkana River from below Sourdough (the lower end of the federal designation) to its confluence with the Copper River. The decision on the navigability and ownership of the lower river is currently under appeal by Ahtna, Inc. The entire Gulkana River would be suitable for the legislature to designate as a state recreation river.

Monitoring Other High Value Recreation Resources. Several locations in the basin have exceptional scenic and recreation values that are designated for recreation by this plan. In the near term, these areas are suitable for dispersed recreation; in the long term, however, more active management may be needed.

DPOR should monitor five areas and at the time of plan revision (every 5 years) make recommendations for additional management guidelines:

1. Klutina River and Klutina Lake (MU 12)
2. Tonsina River and Tonsina Lake (MU 14)
3. Mt. DuRelle and Mt. DuRelle Lake (MU 19)
4. Tazlina Lake, Tazlina River, and Tazlina Highlands (MU 8)
5. Summit Lake (MU 28)

TRUMPETER SWAN NESTING AREA

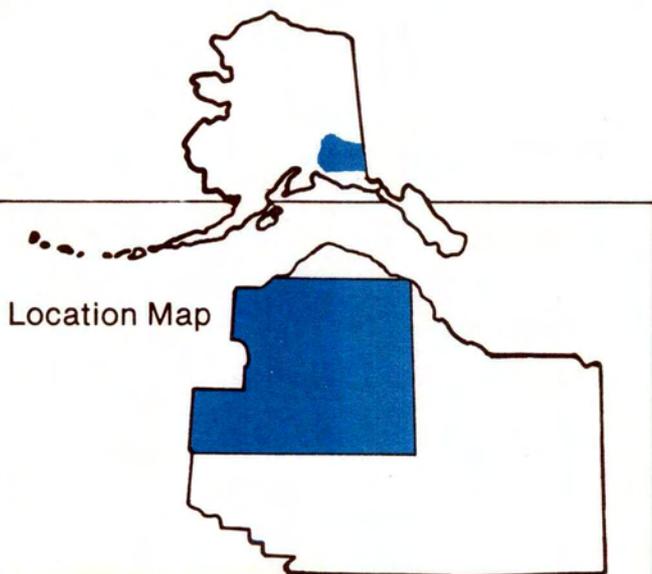
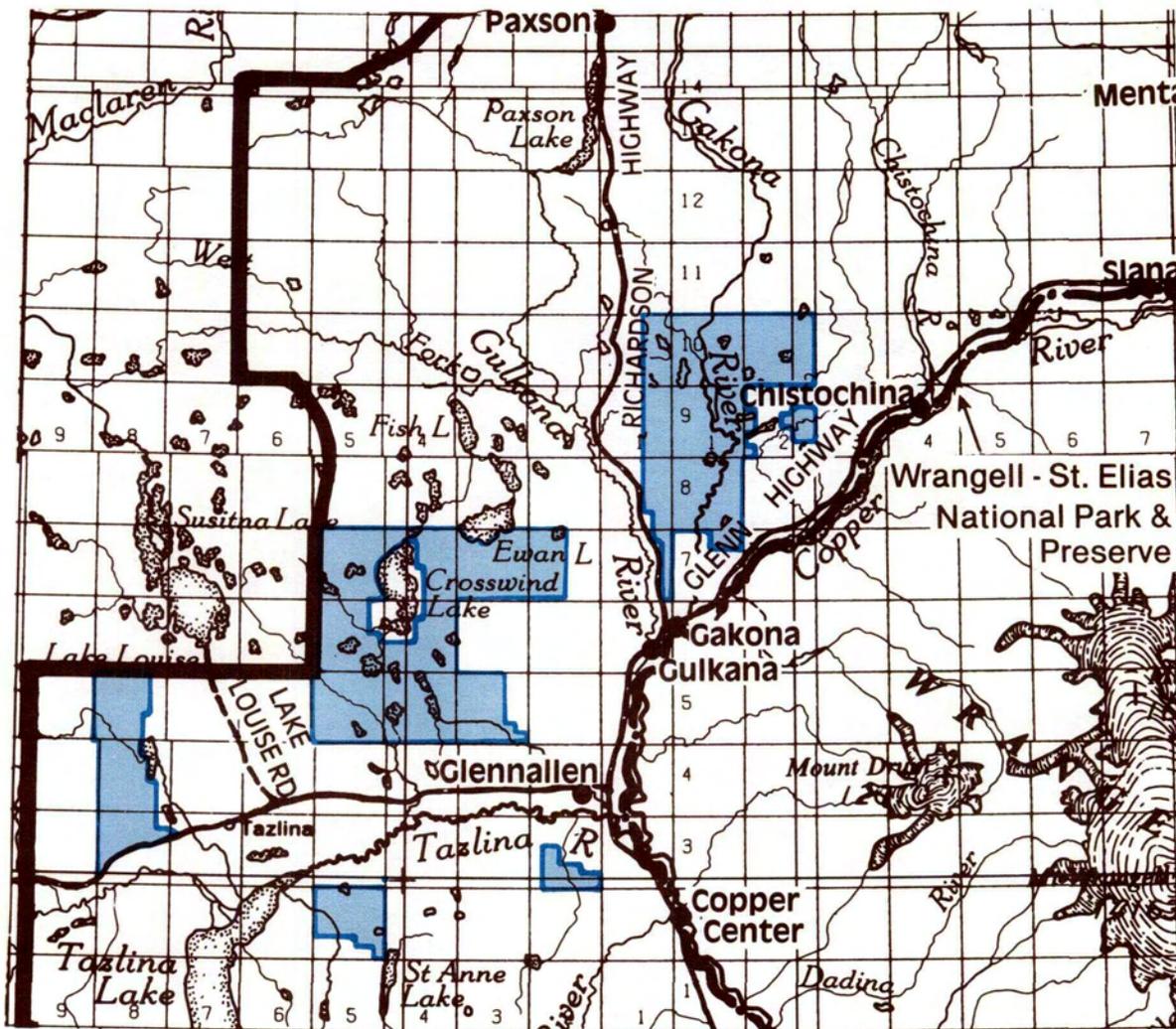
Gulkana Trumpeter Swan Nesting Area. One quarter of the world's population of trumpeter swans nest in the Copper River Basin. Swans are sensitive to disturbances caused by human activities in their nesting areas. The Copper River Basin Plan provides for the protection of swans by requiring land uses minimize disturbance to swans. For the near term, the plan can provide adequate protection to trumpeter swans and their habitat. To ensure that trumpeter swan nesting areas are retained in state ownership and to provide ADF&G with some management authority over swan nesting habitat, the state legislature should consider designation of these lands as a State Critical Habitat Area. The area (excluding proposed relinquishments previously described in this chapter) includes approximately 400,000 acres of state-owned or state-selected land and is shown on the map on page 4-17. Any legislative proposal should evaluate for designation trumpeter swan habitat on state land in the Lake

Louise area of the Susitna Area Plan (DNR, Susitna Area Plan, 1985, p. 320, 321, and 327).

ADF&G will be responsible for preparing the legislative proposals for these areas.

ADF&G will prepare management guidelines in conjunction with DNR and with public review.

SWAN NESTING & CONCENTRATION AREAS



 TRUMPETER SWAN
 NESTING AND
 CONCENTRATION AREAS
 ON STATE LAND

Procedures for Plan Modification and Amendment

The land use designations, policies, implementation actions, and management guidelines of this plan may be changed if conditions warrant. The plan will be updated periodically as new data and new technologies become available and as changing social or economic conditions place different demands on state land.

Periodic Review. The plan will be reviewed at least once every 5 years to determine if revisions are necessary. An interagency planning team will coordinate this review at the request of the Commissioner of DNR. The plan review will include meetings with all interested groups and the general public.

Amendments. The plan may be amended. An amendment adds to or modifies the basic intent of the plan. Changes to allowed or prohibited uses, policies, guidelines or certain implementation actions constitute amendments. Amendments must be approved by the Commissioner of DNR. Amendments require public notice and consultation with affected agencies. Amendments may require public meetings if the Commissioner decides the level of controversy warrants it. Amendments may be proposed by DNR, other agencies, or the public. Requests for amendments are submitted to the Anchorage office of the DNR Division of Land and Water Management.

The following actions are examples of changes that would require an amendment:

- A proposal to close an area to new mineral entry
- Allowing a use in an area where it is currently prohibited
- A land offering in an area designated for retention

The Director of DLWM determines what constitutes an amendment or just a minor change.

Minor Changes. A minor change is one that does not modify or change the basic intent of the plan. Minor changes may be necessary for clarification, consistency, or to facilitate implementation of the plan. Minor changes are made at the discretion of the Director of DLWM and do not require public review. Minor changes may be proposed by agencies or the public. Requests for minor changes are submitted to the Southcentral Regional Office of DLWM. The Director will notify other agencies when minor changes are made. Affected agencies will have the opportunity to comment on minor changes following notification; the comment period may be provided through existing interagency review processes for associated actions.

Special Exceptions. Exceptions to the provisions of the plan may be made without modification of the plan. Special exceptions shall occur only when complying with the plan is excessively difficult or impractical and an alternative procedure can be implemented that adheres to the purposes and spirit of the plan.

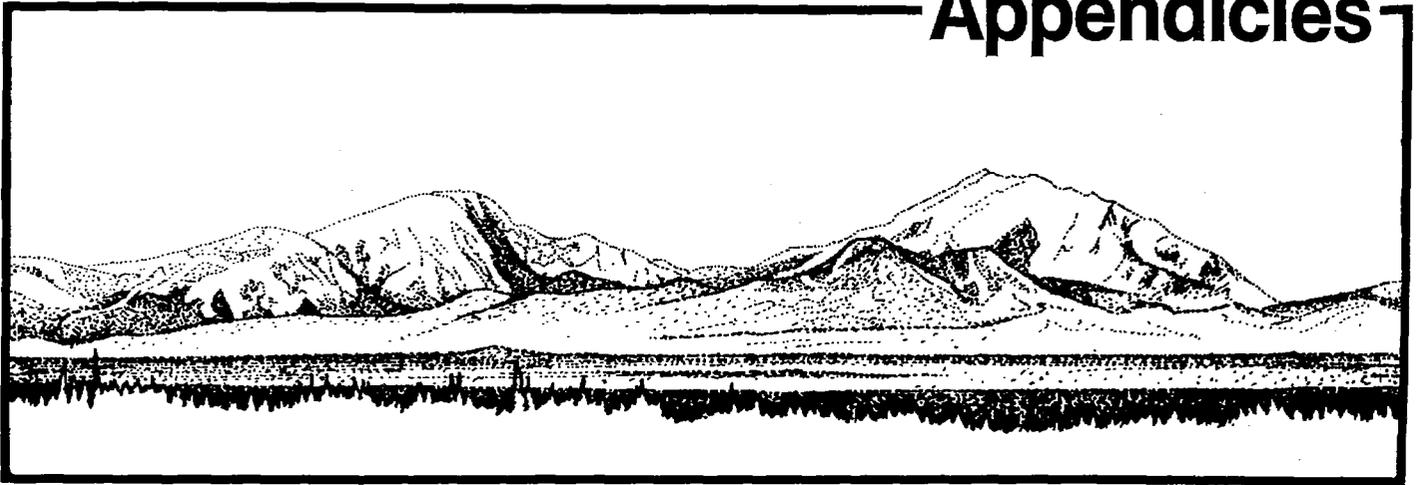
DNR may make a special exception in the implementation of the plan through two procedures:

1. A Regional Manager of DLWM shall prepare a finding that specifies the following:
 - The extenuating conditions that require a special exception.
 - The alternative course of action to be followed.

- How the intent of the plan will be met by the alternative.

2. Agencies that have responsibility for land uses with primary or secondary designations in the affected area will be given an opportunity to review the findings. If the agencies disagree with the Regional Manager's decision, the decision may be appealed to the Director of DLWM, and the Director's decision may be appealed to the Commissioner of DNR. If warranted by the degree of controversy, the Commissioner may hold a public meeting before making a decision.

Appendices



Explanation of Resource Policies in the Plan • A

Glossary • B

Publications Related to the Area Plan • C

Trails • D

Summary Brochure of the Plan • E

APPENDIX A

Explanation of Resource Policies in the Plan

The Copper River Basin Area Plan makes decisions on how resource development on state land should be handled. Many factors were taken into consideration in the decision making process, including existing state policies and regulations, existing resource values, and comments from the public, interest groups, and other state agencies.

To show the range of choices for managing state land, three alternative plans were developed. Each alternative fulfilled statewide goals, but emphasized a different theme. The public reviewed and provided comments on these alternatives.

Based on public comments on the alternatives, a draft plan was developed. The public was given 45 days to review the draft plan. Over 1,000 copies of the draft plan summary were distributed. Fourteen public meetings were scheduled to solicit comments. The draft plan was revised based on comments at these meetings, in letters, and in calls to the department.

This appendix presents the reasons why the policies in the final plan were chosen. This will be helpful to the public and future decision makers in understanding the logic behind the final plan.

Settlement

Issue:

The state policy is to allow opportunities for settlement of state lands. The issue is what level of land offerings should be allowed in this region.

Alternatives Considered:

Three levels of land offerings were considered, the highest being approximately two and 1/2 times the acreage of the lowest alternative. The lowest level included all the better quality state land that is relatively accessible or close to existing communities. The highest level included all of the former as well as several remote areas on lakes and in sensitive fish and wildlife habitats, and lands which are selected by the both the state and native corporations.

Resolution of Issue in Final Plan:

A level of sale closest to alternative 1, the lowest alternative, was chosen. Generally, the best quality and the most accessible land was included. The total nonagricultural land offerings are 12,000 acres over 20 years. The old road to Mentasta area was dropped from the contingency list due to public opposition and possible impacts. A new land offering area was identified near the Gulkana Airport. The acreages at Paxson and Fireweed Mt. - McCarthy were dropped to 400 and 900 acres, respectively. A number of additional guidelines were added for specific land offerings in response to public comments.

Explanation of Policy:

The issue of settlement was one of the most difficult policies to resolve in this plan. Public comments, especially from within the basin, were primarily against land sales in remote areas. However, quality land offerings are desired by the public.

The planning team established several criteria for potential land offering sites. The most important criteria were quality of land and accessibility. Land offering sites that had poor soils, or were very inaccessible (such as land across a major river) were considered but eventually excluded from the plan. Comments generally supported the level of land sales in the draft plan.

The issues of land sales in the McCarthy and Paxson areas were difficult to resolve. The team felt obligated to recommend at least a minimal level of land sale in both areas because this is some of the more desirable land available in the basin. The land sale area chosen west of McCarthy would not have as much impact on the community as disposals east of the Kennicott River and would have less impact on the environment than many of the other potential disposal sites in the basin. The land sale area at Paxson includes a large gross area but a relatively small net acreage would be offered. This allows the disposal planning process to design a land offering which has a minimum impact on the people and resources of Paxson.

Agriculture**Issue:**

Current state policy is to designate and dispose of land capable of supporting agriculture under agricultural programs. The best agricultural lands are also well suited for settlement. Some of the better quality agricultural land in the basin is inaccessible across the Copper River. What level of agriculture disposals would be appropriate for the basin, and should settlement be considered in lieu of agriculture in some areas?

Alternatives Considered:

Three levels of agricultural offerings were considered. The highest level was about 6 1/2 times the acreage of the lowest. However, the highest alternative did not necessarily encompass the best soils. The lowest alternative included more high quality agricultural soils than the other two alternatives. Some of the land with good soils, however, had poor access.

Resolution of Issue in the Plan:

The gross acreage of agricultural offerings is closest to the level suggested in the middle alternative. Accessible land capable of supporting agriculture received an agricultural designation. Areas with marginal soils were designated for both settlement and agriculture. That is, at the time of disposal, parcels found not suitable for agriculture could be offered for settlement. The most remote agriculture lands received a resource management designation, which means that the land is not committed to agriculture at the present time, but could be used for agriculture in the future.

The total agricultural offerings are 6,000 acres over 20 years. One more small area was added to the final plan as a possible agricultural offering near Kenny Lake.

Explanation of Policy:

There is very little accessible, state-owned land in the basin which is suitable for agriculture. The plan would make this land available for agricultural use.

Remote Cabins

Issue:

Issuing remote cabins permits is one way to allow for low density settlement in remote areas. However the result of a remote cabin permit can be the same as a remote homestead disposal. Although land covered by the permit is retained in state ownership, it is often perceived to be private land.

Alternatives Considered:

Alternatives ranged from no remote cabins allowed under alternative 1, to allowing cabins in all feasible areas under alternative 2.

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

The plan limits remote cabins to a few specific areas within the basin. Remote cabins are allowed in a large part of the Gakona and Chistochina river drainages. Problems that occasionally arise from remote cabins such as blocking airstrips and trail access can be avoided through management guidelines. The number of cabins was reduced from 60 in the draft plan to 50 in the final plan, although the areas where cabins are allowed remains the same. Additional guidelines were added in response to public concerns, the most notable being a guideline which requires DNR to deal with existing unauthorized cabins before implementing the remote cabin program.

Explanation of Policy:

The final plan allows for remote cabins in the areas with lowest conflicts with wildlife, recreation, and fire management. Conflicts will be minimized by guidelines dealing with cabin locations and unauthorized uses.

Forestry

Issue:

Forestry is an important issue primarily because of the local demand for personal use firewood. A very small level of commercial timber harvesting is occurring at the present time. Areas with good forestry potential are also prime wildlife habitat and are suitable for settlement. Which forestry areas would be the most important to retain in public ownership for sustained yield management?

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative 3 emphasized the retention of state land for forestry and other uses. In alternative 1, fish and wildlife habitat took precedence in areas of potential conflict. In alternative 2, settlement generally took precedence over forestry where the two values were in conflict.

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

Most high and moderate value forest land along the road corridor was designated as forestry land. One potential conflict is where forest resources are found within trumpeter swan habitat. It was agreed that seasonal restrictions could be placed on harvest activities without detracting from the forest value. There was no significant change in forestry designations between the draft and final plans.

Explanation of Policy:

There were not many areas of conflict between forestry and settlement or wildlife habitat. Forest management is generally compatible with multiple-use management. Public comments supported forestry, particularly for personal-use firewood.

Mining and Oil/Gas

Issue:

With the exception of the Slate Creek - Chisna River area, the highest known mining values are found on privately owned land or in the national park/preserve. Therefore, the planning team did not consider this to be a major issue on state lands.

Three reasons that might warrant closure to new mineral entry in the Copper River Basin are protection of trumpeter swan habitat, protection of important salmon streams, and protection of recreation resources.

Alternatives Considered:

Under all 3 alternatives, the majority of state land remained open to mineral entry, ranging from 88% open under alternative 1 to 97% open under alternative 2. Alternative 1 had the lesser amount of land open because of its emphasis on wildlife habitats. Under all alternatives, existing access to mining claims were retained.

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

Approximately 97% of state lands are open to mineral entry and all state land is available to oil and gas leasing except under the Gulkana River. The Slate Creek - Chisna River area, where mining is a primary use, was expanded from the draft plan to encompass all areas intensively mined.

Explanation of Policy:

The planning team felt it was important to keep as much area open to surface and subsurface resource development as possible. The public strongly supported the concept of protecting swan habitats and important salmon streams and spawning sites.

Swan habitat areas will remain open to mineral entry and oil and gas leasing. Seasonal limitations, such as control of overland access during swan nesting periods, are sufficient to protect the habitat.

Only the most important spawning and rearing areas for anadromous fish in streams and lakes, the Kettlehole - Mendeltna Creek recreation area and archaeological sites on the north shore of Tazlina Lake, will be closed to new mineral entry. In Thompson Pass, only the road and pipeline corridor will be closed to new mineral entry. The potential for conflict between minerals and other resources is high in these areas. The relative values of fish habitat or recreation at these specific sites are higher than potential mineral values and therefore warrant a closure.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Issue:

The Copper River Basin supports some unique wildlife habitats, most notably trumpeter swan nesting areas. People emphasized that hunting and fishing are a very important part of their lifestyle and economy. What areas should be designated as habitat, and what areas can be managed for habitat concurrently with other resources?

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative 1 emphasized protection of fish and wildlife habitat. It included recommendations for legislative designation of trumpeter swan habitat. In general, wherever habitat values conflicted with other resource values, habitat took precedence. This was not the case in the other two alternatives. Under all three alternatives, significant portions of state land had habitat designation co-primary with another designation.

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

Most of the important habitat areas received a habitat designation. There is not an immediate need to recommend legislative designation of the swan nesting areas. The most important salmon spawning streams and lakes are closed to new mineral entry.

Explanation of Policy:

There was very strong support from the public for protecting swan habitats. However, existing uses and subsurface resource values are minimal in these areas; therefore, potential conflicts are low. Interagency coordination is sufficient to ensure that forestry resources in swan habitats will be available for harvest subject to seasonal restrictions. Other uses that could adversely affect swans are carefully managed through guidelines contained in Chapter 2 of the plan.

Swan habitats north of Ewan Lake, which are low in other resource values, are relinquished to BLM. BLM will manage these areas to protect swans.

Potential disposal lands suggested in remote areas were not included in the plan because of inaccessibility and to avoid habitat-settlement conflicts.

Recreation**Issue:**

The basin has unique recreation potential but lacks developed facilities. The basin is road accessible and is on the tourist track. A sizeable proportion of land in the basin lies within the national park and preserve. How should recreation resources on state land be managed?

Alternatives Considered:

Under alternatives 1 and 3, most public land with recreation values were retained in public ownership. Under alternative 2, some of these lands were retained in public ownership, but many were proposed for eventual disposal. Alternatives 1 and 3 contained recommendations for legislative designations of three recreation areas as well as creating several new recreation sites. Alternative 2 did not include any. All three alternatives did designate public land with high recreation values as "recreation", usually along with a forestry or habitat designation.

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

The plan specifies that most land with high recreation values be kept in public ownership. The state legislature should consider designating the Thompson Pass, Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek, and Tazlina - Nelchina Rivers as state recreation areas. Other state lands with recreation values received a recreation designation - usually along with a forestry or habitat designation.

Explanation of Policy:

Recreation use of state land was supported by the public. The three areas recommended for legislative designation have very high recreation values and receive the most public use. Other prime recreation areas, such as Tazlina Lake and Summit Lake, can be adequately protected through retention in state ownership and management guidelines.

Transportation**Issue:**

What new transportation facilities are needed to implement this plan and how should other new transportation facilities be accommodated in the plan?

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

The plan does not identify the need for any major new transportation projects in order to implement the plan. The plan allows for new transportation where it crosses state land. The plan specifically allows for construction of the Copper River Highway if it crosses state land.

Explanation of Policy:

The plan leaves options open for future transportation facilities on and across state land.

Trails**Issue:**

Due to land conveyances under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and state land disposals, the primary trail issue is to retain and designate existing access to state land. Another issue is what level of trail management is needed in the planning area.

Resolution of the Issue in the Final Plan:

The plan identifies certain trails that need to be retained in state ownership. The plan identifies trail easements where signs should be posted at trailheads and trails which need to be marked where they cross private lands.

Use of most trails is not regulated by the plan, and no major trail maintenance activities are proposed for state land in the basin.

Explanation of Policy:

The plan maintains existing access to state land. In most areas, easements already reserved across private lands provide adequate access to state lands. Where additional access is needed, the plan specifies options to obtain more access.

Selections and Relinquishments**Issue:**

The state can make additional selections from vacant and unappropriated federal land. The state can also relinquish selected land in the basin in favor of making more valuable selections within the region or elsewhere in the state.

Alternatives Considered:

The planning team considered additional selections in Thompson Pass for recreation; at Tonsina Plateau for settlement; and between Meier's Lake and Paxson for transportation, habitat and settlement. Relinquishments were suggested for land in the trumpeter swan areas which could be more efficiently managed by BLM and which had low resource values, for land along the Gulkana River for more efficient management by BLM, and for one tract of land within the national park.

Resolution of Issue in the Final Plan:

Selections in the final plan focus on acquiring land suitable for settlement, recreation and transportation. The team made an additional suggestion for a selection along the Little Tonsina and Tielke Rivers for settlement, transportation, forestry, and recreation. Additional selections in the final plan along the Denali Highway complement recent state selections in the Denali block.

None of the land suggested for relinquishments had high resource values of interest to the state economy or contain resources which are adequately managed under federal ownership.

Early in the alternatives process, the team considered a land exchange with the National Park Service involving the state's inholding along the McCarthy Road. However, it decided to designate that land as multiple use, due to settlement, recreation, forestry and habitat values.

APPENDIX B

Glossary

Coniferous: The type of tree or shrub that is evergreen and bears cones.

Consultation: Under existing statutes, regulations, and procedures, the Department of Natural Resources informs other groups of its intention to take a specific action and seek their advice or assistance. Consultation is not intended to be binding on a decision; it is a means of informing affected organizations and individuals about forthcoming decisions and getting the benefit of their expertise.

Deciduous: The type of tree or shrub that loses its leaves at the end of the growing season. Examples of deciduous vegetation are aspen and birch.

Easement: The right to use privately owned land for a particular purpose.

17(b) Easements: Easements across Native corporation land reserved through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Uses of the easements are limited to transportation purposes and other uses specified in the act and in conveyance documents.

Feasible: Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors.

Feasible and Prudent: Consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the guideline.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat: The fish and wildlife habitat designations used in the Copper River Basin Area Plan resource inventory are described below. These were developed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for the Fish and Wildlife Element.

A-1 Habitat lands. A discrete habitat needed to sustain a species within a region. These are highly sensitive fish and wildlife habitat and human use areas. A-1 Habitat lands include trumpeter swan nesting areas and lakes or streams with especially significant anadromous fish spawning or rearing areas such as the Paxson Lake, Summit Lake, the upper Gulkana River, and Long Lake. ADF&G recommends wildlife be the primary use of these areas with possible limited seasonal entry of some uses.

A-2 Habitat lands. These are habitats with fish and wildlife and related human use values of regional or statewide significance. The potential for reducing these values due to impacts from other uses is considered high and, in most instances, unavoidable. These areas include the most intensive or highest

quality public-use areas or the most productive fish and wildlife habitats. ADF&G recommends that wildlife be the primary use with only compatible (secondary use) activities allowed.

B-1 Habitat lands. These are habitats with fish and wildlife and related human-use values that are less sensitive to disturbance. Compatibility of the habitat with other public resources is reasonably high. ADF&G recommends wildlife be a co-primary use and the area be subject to relatively restrictive management.

B-2 Habitat lands. These are moderate value habitat or harvest areas. In this designation, ADF&G recommends that habitat be a co-primary use with some secondary uses allowed if compatible. Allowable secondary uses would include disposals of interest in state land if the disposal would not preclude fish and wildlife or that no feasible alternatives to disposal or long term commitment to development of these valuable public lands are available to meet established economic, social, or environmental resource needs of the state.

C Habitat lands. ADF&G has determined that fish and wildlife habitat values are low and can be protected primarily through development of guidelines.

Goal: A statement of basic intent or a general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable and do not have specified dates for achievement.

Guideline: A specific course of action that must be followed when a resource manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes use of state lands. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it. Guidelines also range from giving general guidance for decision making or identifying factors that need to be considered, to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions.

High: A rating given a geographical unit within the study area that indicates the relative value of a resource is high compared with other units in the study area.

Land Offerings: Transfer of state land to private ownership as authorized by AS 38.04.010, including fee-simple sale, homesteading and sale of agricultural rights; they do not include leases, land-use permits, water rights, rights-of-way, material sales, or other disposals of interest in lands or waters.

Land Sales: Used with same meaning as 'Land Disposals' as defined above.

Low: A rating given a geographical unit within the study area that indicates the relative value of a resource is low compared with other units in the study area.

M: Abbreviation for fish migration area (used in the Resource Information Summary Chart).

Management Plan: A land and resource use plan that makes more detailed allocation decisions and gives more detailed guidance for management than an area plan. Management plans are a means of implementing this area plan. They translate the management intent statements, land use designations, and guidelines into detailed decisions on resource use or development. The scale and scope of a management plan varies considerably from large projects taking 1 or 2 years that deal with a variety of management decisions, to small, short-term projects that affect only a few

actions on a few thousand acres. Some management plans deal with a single issue (for example, trails or transportation) for an entire region. Management plans are prepared according to DNR procedures that involve interagency and public participation.

Moderate: A rating given a geographical unit within the study area that indicates the relative value of a resource is moderate compared with other units in the study area.

Navigable: Used in its legal context, this refers to lakes and rivers that meet federal and state criteria for navigability. Under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Submerged Lands Act, the state owns land under navigable waterbodies.

Policy: An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions. In this plan, DNR policies for land and resource management given in this plan include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, land use designations, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of DNR's intentions.

Primary Use: A designated, allowed use of major importance in a particular management unit. Resources in the unit will be managed to encourage, develop, or protect this use. Where a management unit has two or more designated primary uses, the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit, together with existing regulations and procedures, will direct how resources are managed to avoid or minimize conflict between these primary uses.

Prohibited Use: A use not allowed in a management unit because of conflicts with management intent, designated primary or secondary uses, or management guidelines. Uses not specifically prohibited nor designated as primary or secondary uses in a management unit are allowed if compatible with primary and secondary uses, the management intent statements for the unit, and the plan's guidelines.

R: Abbreviation for fish rearing site (used in the Resource Information Summary Chart).

Remote Cabin: A cabin constructed under a permit issued through the Remote Cabin Permit program authorized in AS 38.04.079 and further described in 11 AAC 67.700-.790.

RS 2477: An historic federal statute, repealed in 1976, that granted transportation rights-of-way on unappropriated and unreserved federal land. These rights-of-way are established by public use or construction.

S: Abbreviation for fish spawning site (used in the Resource Information Summary Chart).

Secondary Use: A designated, allowed use considered important, but intended to receive less emphasis than a primary use because it has less potential than a primary use or contributes less to achieving the management intent of the unit than a primary use; or occurs only on limited sites. In those site-specific situations where a secondary use has a higher value than a primary use, the secondary use may take precedence over the primary use. Management for a secondary use will recognize and protect primary uses through application of guidelines, regulations, and procedures. However, if a secondary use cannot occur without detrimentally affecting a primary use in the management unit as a whole, the secondary use will not be allowed.

Shall: Requires a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word 'shall' must be followed by resource managers or users. If such a guideline is not complied with, a written decision justifying the noncompliance is required (see page 4-15).

Should: States intent for a course of action or set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word 'should' states the plan's intent and allows a resource manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or whether particular circumstances justify deviation from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified.

Trapping (or Trapper) Cabin: A cabin constructed under a Trapping Cabin Construction Permit as authorized and described in AS 38.95.080 and 11 AAC 94.

Unknown: Resource data does not exist; therefore, resource values are unknown.

Unsuitable: When the land is physically incapable of supporting a particular type of resource development (usually because that resource doesn't exist), it is rated unsuitable.

Wetlands: For purposes of inventory and regulation of wetlands, DNR will use the definition adopted by the State of Alaska under the regulations of the Coastal Management Program (6 AAC 80.900(19)).

Will: Same as 'shall' (above).

APPENDIX C

Publications Related to the Area Plan

Planning Reports and Brochures

- Copper River Basin Area Plan (introductory brochure with map). Alaska Department of Natural Resources. November 1984 and February 1985 (second printing).
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Public Comments of November, 1984. Alaska Department of Natural Resources. December 1984.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Land Use Alternatives (brochure, 16 pages). Alaska Department of Natural Resources. March 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Summary of Copper River Basin Public Attitude Survey. Sara Gray. June 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Summary of Comments on Alternatives. Alaska Department of Natural Resources. August 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Assessment of Plan Alternatives and Draft Plan. Alaska DNR. August 1986.

Background Data and Element Reports

- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Agriculture Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management and Division of Agriculture. August 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Fish and Wildlife Element Atlas. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat Division. 1985.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Forestry Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Division of Land and Water Management. September 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Recreation Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and Division of Land and Water Management. August 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Sand and Gravel Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management. May 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Settlement Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management. April 1986.
- Copper River Basin Area Plan - Subsurface Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Divisions of Mining, Oil and Gas and Land and Water Management. January 1986.

Copper River Basin Area Plan - Transportation Element. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management. August 1986.

Copper River Basin Area Plan - Data Base Documentation and Maps - Resource Mapping. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. 1984. Data is contained in the following Public-data Files (PDF):

<u>PDF No.</u>	<u>ELEMENTS</u>
86-15a	Geologic constraints
b	Engineering geology
c	Mining claim locations
d	Mineral and energy resources
e	Mineral terranes
f	Vegetation
g	Surface hydrology
h	Infrastructure
i	Land use
j	Land ownership
k	Political boundaries and administrative units
l	Prehistoric and historic resources
m	Geologic literature references
85-11	Cultural Resources Report: Copper River Resources Management Mapping Project

Copper River - Wrangells Socioeconomic Overview. University of Alaska, Institute of Social and Economic Research for the U.S. Forest Service.

Denali to Wrangell - St. Elias. Assessment and Management of Scenic Resources along the Highways between Denali and Wrangell - St. Elias National Parks. Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Dennis Kuklok, Susan Heikkala, Karen Fleck-Harding, Linda Arndt and William Peterson. July 1982.

A History of Alaska's Copper River Region. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management. Dale Stirling. August 1986.

RS 2477 Regional Trails and Roads Assertion Inventory. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management. Dale Stirling. March 13, 1985.

Southern Interior Regional Transportation Study (SIRTS). Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. September 1985.

Soil Survey of the Copper River Basin (preliminary field maps and reports). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1985.

APPENDIX D

Trails

The trail maps in Appendix D show the general location of important trails in the basin, including 17(b) easements and potential RS 2477 trails.

The trails depicted on these maps are used primarily for recreation, access to hunting, fishing and mining areas, and access to recreation destinations. They vary from winter overland routes for sled dogs and snow machines to more established off-road vehicle roads such as the Chistochina Trail.

17(b) easements are public easements across Native corporation lands reserved under Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). These easements were set aside to ensure access to public land.

Other publicly used trails across state, private, and federal lands (including within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve) are potentially subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way established under Revised Statute (RS) 2477. RS 2477 (formally codified as 43 USC 932; enacted in 1866) provides that "the right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." The statute was repealed by Public Law 94-579, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as of October 21, 1976, subject to valid existing claims.

Identification of potential rights-of-way on the map does not establish the validity of these RS 2477 rights-of-way and does not provide the public the right to travel over them. The trails depicted in Appendix D may be valid under RS 2477. The validity of these trails must be determined on a case-by-case basis. Private parties or the State of Alaska may identify and seek recognition of additional RS 2477 rights-of-way within the Copper River basin.

Use of trails on state land for hiking, horse or dog team travel, cross country skiing, snow machine, four-wheel drives and all terrain vehicles does not require permits. Four-wheel vehicles and all terrain vehicles may be restricted in special use areas and in legislatively designated areas such as state park lands.

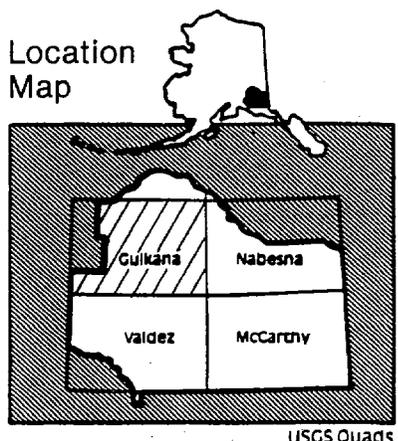
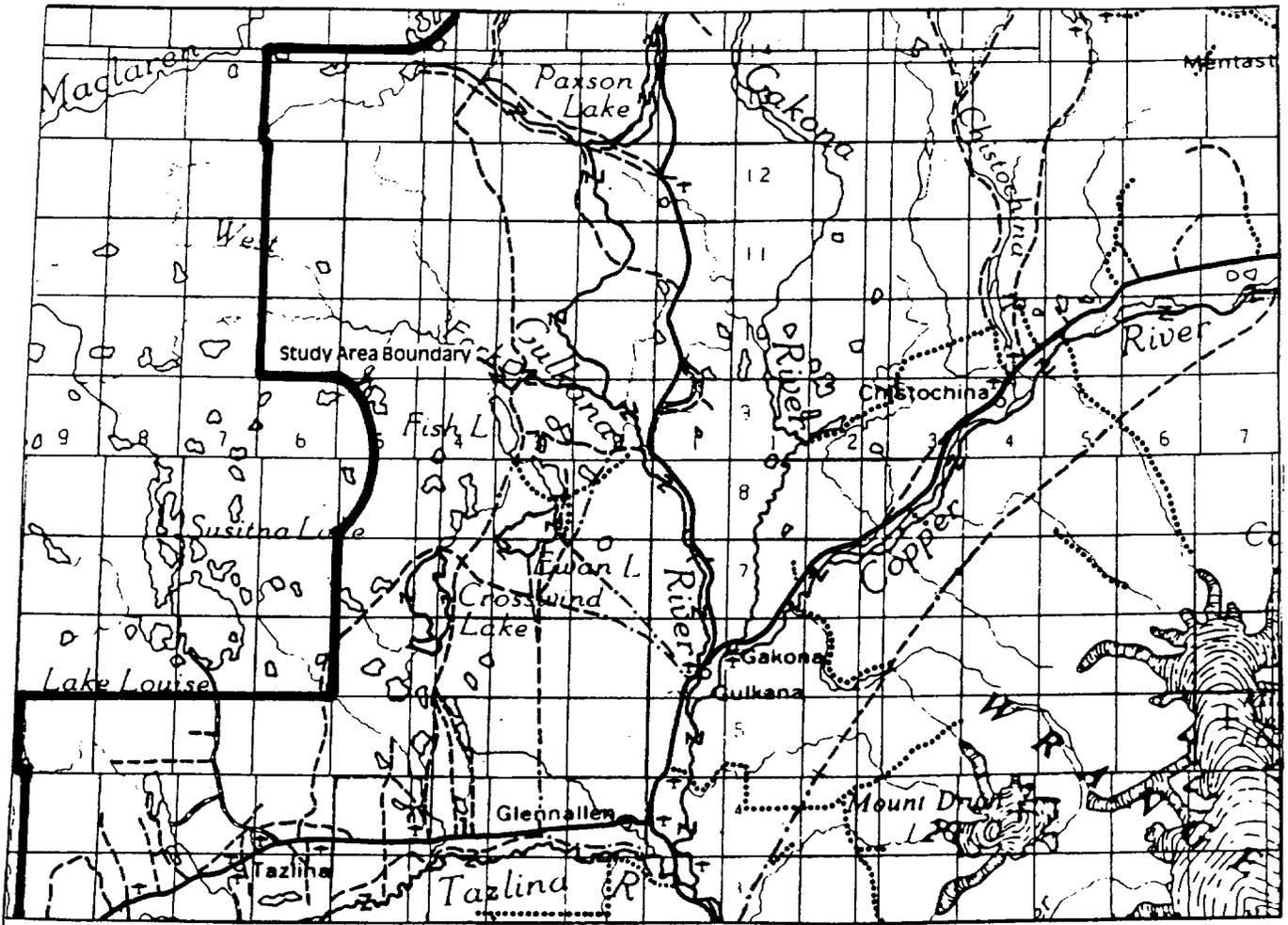
The trails mapped in Appendix D are not necessarily all-inclusive. Many other local trails, including numerous seismic lines, traverse the basin. These maps show the more important trails or trails of historic importance. Some of these trails also cross private land. These maps are not appropriate for use in the field to locate (and use) trails. Additional material regarding potential rights-of-way and easements identified by the state may be obtained through the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities or the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

For more detailed information, on location of trails please consult 1:250,000 scale maps at the following offices:

1. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land & Water Management, State Interest Determination Section, graphics office

2. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining and Geological Surveys: 1:250,000 scale inventory maps for the Copper River Basin - "Infrastructure-Trails"
3. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management, Resource Allocation Section: Copper River Basin-Trails Working Maps
4. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities: 1974 Inventory of Trails

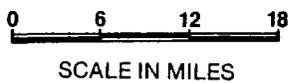
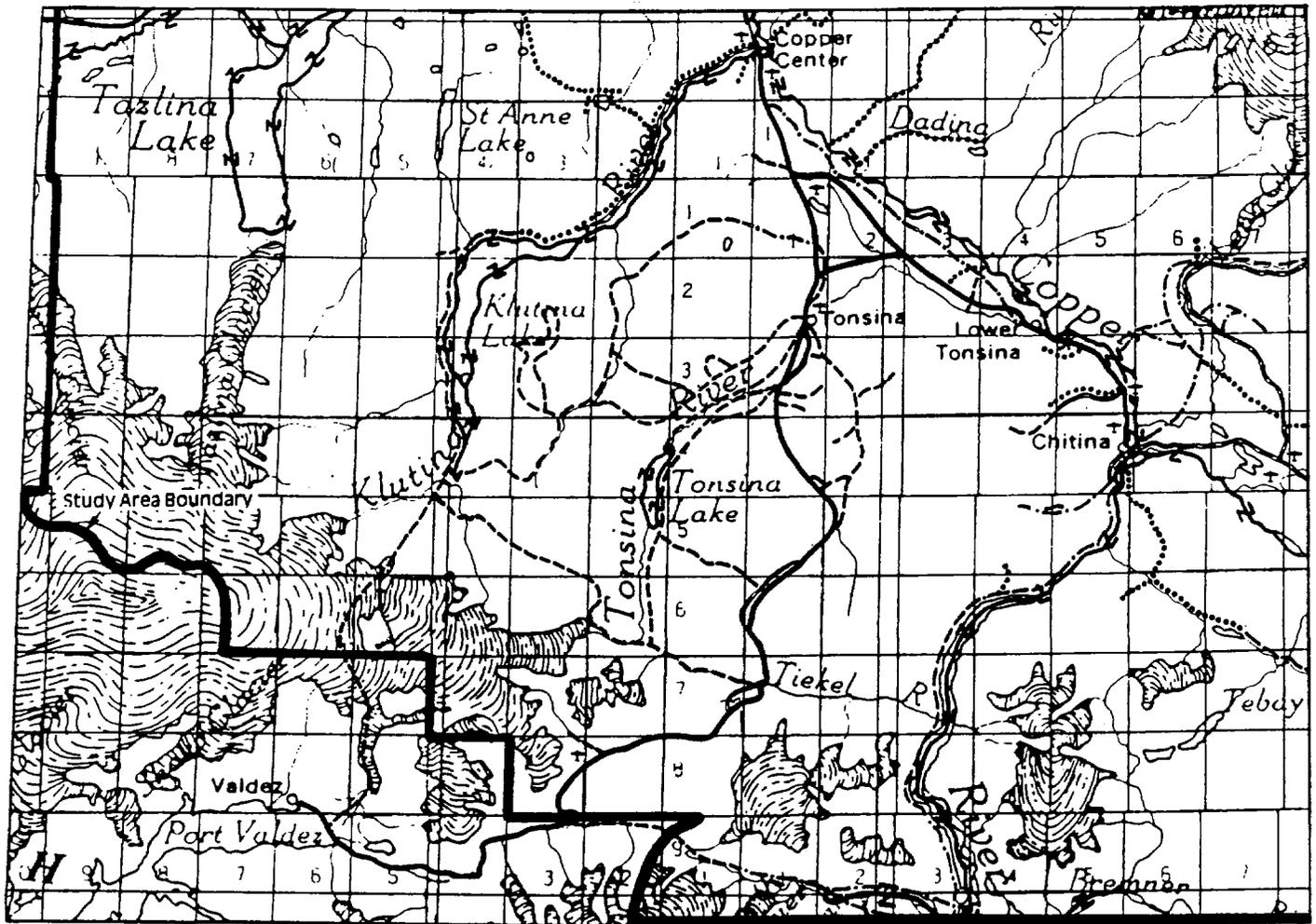
TRAILS & TRANSPORTATION



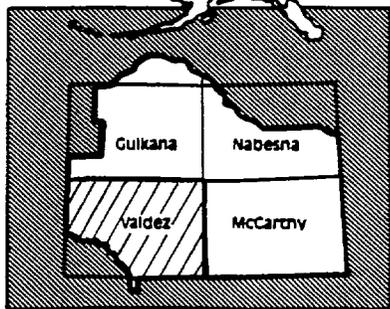
- Trails on public lands
- - - Trails on private lands
- Public easements on private lands (17b trails)
- == Roads and highways
- ⚓ Navigable waters
- + Airstrips

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

TRAILS & TRANSPORTATION



Location Map

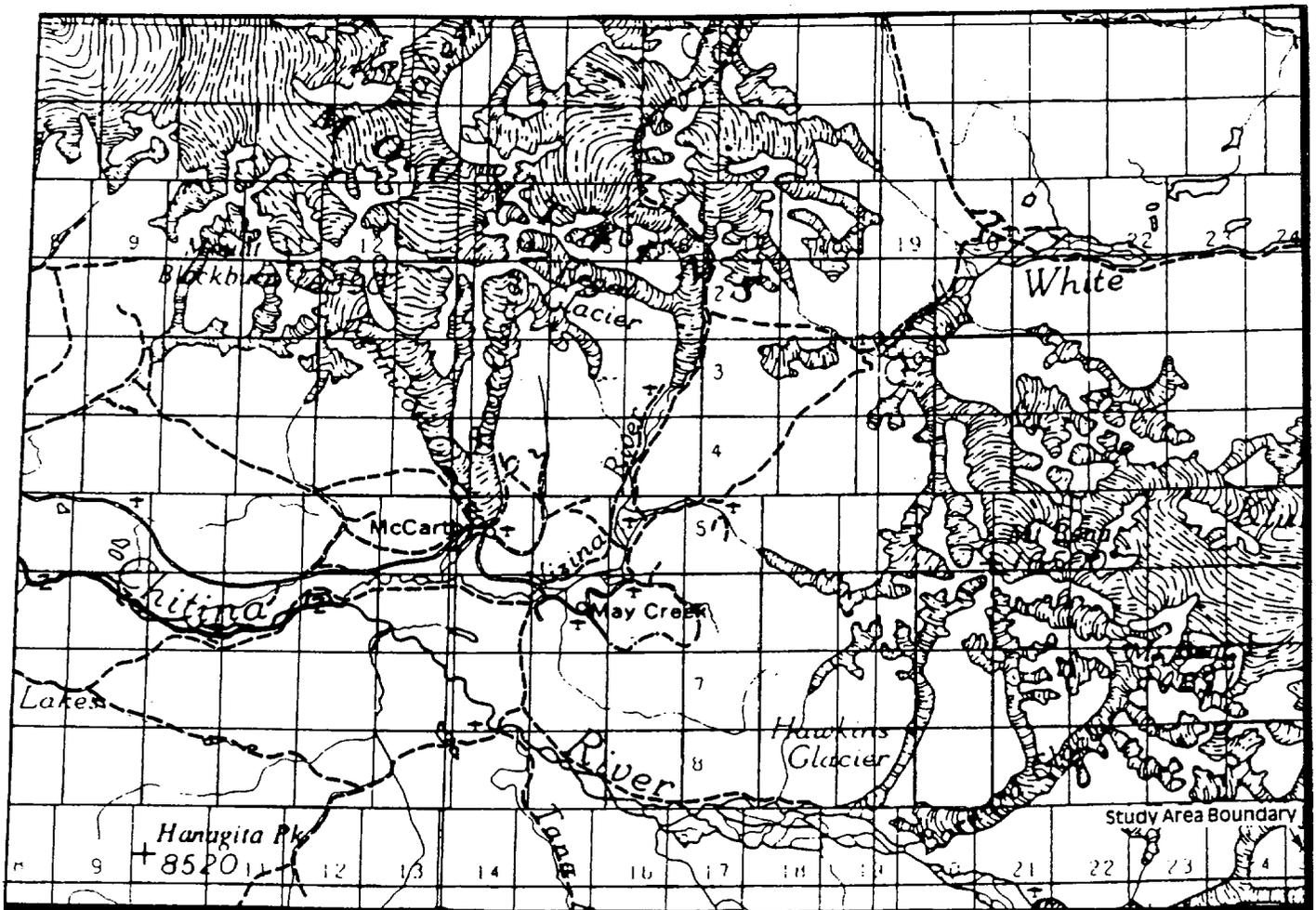


USGS Quads

- Trails on public lands
- .-.- Trails on private lands
- Public easements on private lands (17b trails)
- == Roads and highways
- W Navigable waters
- + Airstrips

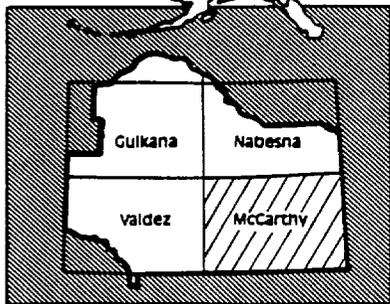
Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

TRAILS & TRANSPORTATION



0 6 12 18
SCALE IN MILES

Location Map

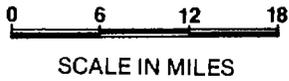
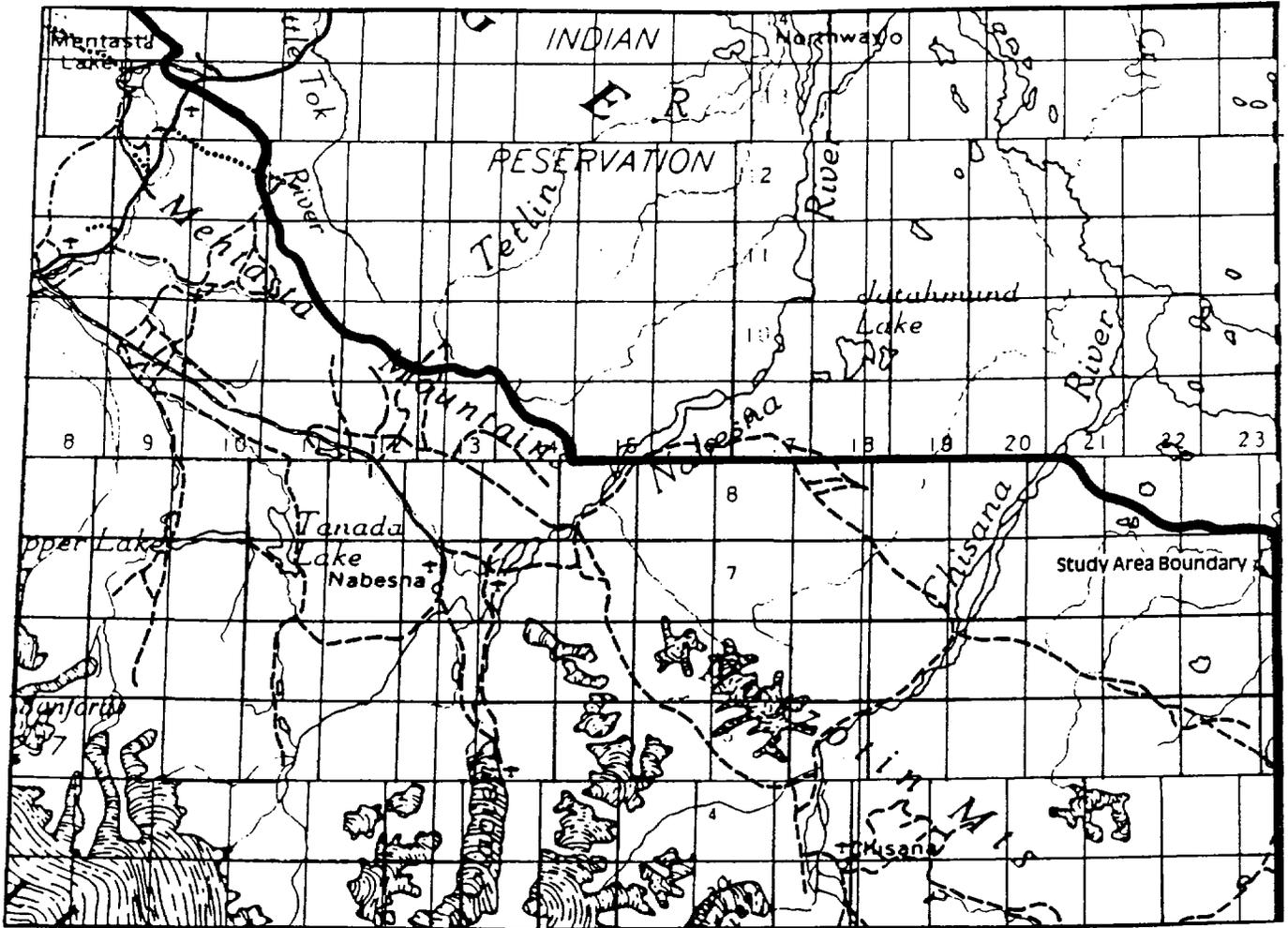


USGS Quads

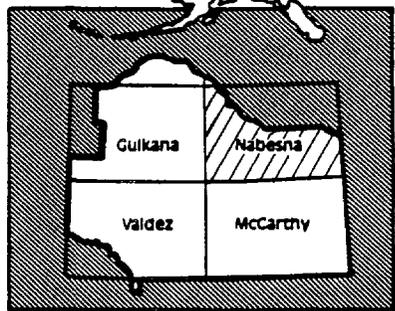
- Trails on public lands
- - - Trails on private lands
- Public easements on private lands (17b trails)
- == Roads and highways
- ⊥ Navigable waters
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Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

TRAILS & TRANSPORTATION



Location Map



USGS Quads

- Trails on public lands
- .-.- Trails on private lands
- Public easements on private lands (17b trails)
- == Roads and highways
- N Navigable waters
- + Airstrips

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

APPENDIX E

Summary Brochure of the Plan

Copper River Basin Area Plan for State Lands



Plan Summary

INTRODUCTION

This plan describes how the Alaska Department of Natural Resources will manage approximately 3.3 million acres of state-owned lands in the Copper River Basin. The plan will guide the management of these state lands for the next 20 years. The plan does not make decisions for private, university, or federal lands.

In September 1984, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began preparing this plan. DNR's Copper River Basin planning team held public meetings in November 1984 to talk about the plan. At those meetings people spoke about issues in the area and how they would like to see state land used. These suggestions were incorporated into the planning process.

Using this information, the planning team developed three alternative plans for the use of state lands in the basin. Each alternative represented a different approach to solving important land use issues. These alternatives were reviewed by the public in Spring 1986. The planning team developed a draft plan based on comments received on these alternatives. Public meetings regarding the draft plan were held in 14 communities and public comments were accepted through November 1986. These comments were used as the basis for revisions which resulted in this final plan.

To Receive a Copy of the Plan

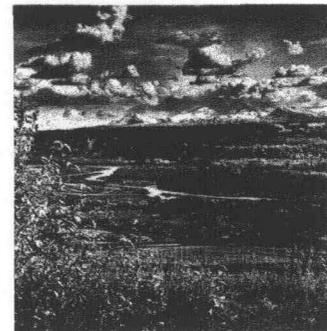
Copies of the complete plan are available at DNR offices in Tazlina (Mile 110, Richardson Highway), Anchorage, and Fairbanks. The plan has also been sent to libraries, village councils, interest groups, and most lodges in the Copper River Basin.

SUMMARY OF LAND MANAGEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES

The following is a summary of the plan. The direction of the final plan is based upon an analysis of the comments received from the public on the draft plan, plan alternatives, the assessment of the impacts of the alternatives, and policies of the Department of Natural Resources. The map on the reverse depicts land use designations for each management unit. The plan includes land use designations for all state-owned and state-selected land. Some of the state-selected land is also selected by Native corporations and may not become state land. The plan will apply only to the use of land the state eventually owns.

General Theme of Plan

The plan leaves state land available for resource development while providing protection to sensitive fish and wildlife habitats and recreation resources. The plan allows for the development of minerals, forests, and other resources. Very few uses are prohibited, although some activities are restricted to protect trumpeter swan nesting habitat and certain recreation resources. Land offerings will be limited primarily to relatively good quality land located near existing roads or easily accessible by airplane or trails.



POLICIES BY RESOURCE

Land Offerings

The Copper River Basin Area Plan determines what state land may be offered for private ownership through the homestead, subdivision and other disposal programs during the next twenty years. DNR may offer approximately 18,000 acres of land under the settlement and agricultural programs. The areas proposed for land offerings meet the following criteria:

- The land is of relatively good quality.
- The land is relatively accessible.
- The land is state owned or is likely to be state owned.
- Conflicts with wildlife and recreation are less than in other areas which are good for settlement.
- The public has expressed some support for land offerings in that area.

Settlement

The areas which would be offered under non-agricultural settlement programs are shown below.

Settlement Areas	Potential Net Acres
Glenn Highway - scattered parcels	250
Glennallen odd tracts	500
Tonsina Plateau	2,000
Tonsina North (mixed agricultural-non-agricultural)	2,000
Tolsona Ridge/Ridgeview	2,500
Meiers Lake-Paxson area	400
Squirrel Creek	500
Fireweed Mountain II (450 acres delayed until after 1996)	900
Crosswind Lake - south and east	250
North of Nelchina River	500
Tiekel Block/Richardson Highway	500
Klutina Lake Area (depends on land ownership)	500
Northwest of Gulkana Airport	200
Reofferings	1,000
Total Nonagricultural Projects	12,000

A few additional areas which could be considered for land offerings are listed below. These areas are under dual selections by the state and Native corporations. If they are eventually transferred into state ownership, they could be offered for settlement in lieu of acreage from other areas.

- Edgerton Highway 1,000 acres
- Klutina South area (SE of Copper Center) mixed agricultural/nonagricultural 500 - 1,000 acres
- Mankomen Lake 500 acres

Agriculture

Agricultural land offerings will be made on areas with agricultural potential (defined by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service preliminary Soil Survey) and near existing transportation. Agricultural offerings will be agricultural homesteads or small agricultural projects. Large scale agricultural projects are not proposed. Specific areas to be offered under agricultural programs are:

Area	Approximate Net Acres
Tonsina North Addition	2,000
Tazlina - across the pipeline	3,000
Klutina South - state-owned land southwest of Copper Center	1,000
Kenny Lake - between Edgerton Highway and Tonsina River	undetermined
Total Agricultural Offerings	6,000
Total Land Offerings	18,000

Most other state land with agricultural potential is included in a resource management category. It is not feasible to develop these lands in the near future because of difficult access or conflicting land status. The resource management designation means the land will be retained in public ownership. If access is improved or the state gets ownership of these parcels, they will be reevaluated for agriculture, forestry, settlement, or other uses.

General guidelines for land offerings include:

- The acreages offered in any given area can be adjusted up or down based on the amount of land determined suitable for offering during the land disposal planning process. However, the total acreage to be offered in the basin will not exceed 18,000 acres.
- Potential agricultural areas can be offered under the settlement programs (nonagricultural homesteads or subdivisions) if found not to be suitable for agriculture.
- The Fireweed Mountain, Paxson, and Tonsina Plateau disposals will be offered in phases to lessen impacts on existing communities or resources.
- The plan contains guidelines for stream buffers, trail protection, wetland protection and other design standards which apply to all land offerings.

Surface Leasing Surface land leases, including commercial and industrial leases, are allowed case by case except in the trumpeter swan habitat, and within 1 mile of St. Anne, Tonsina, High, Kaina, and southern Tazlina Lakes.

Remote Private Cabins DNR can issue permits (valid for up to 25 years) to individuals to build temporary cabins in remote areas. Up to a total of 30 remote cabins will be allowed in these areas:

- Manker and Greyling Creek drainage - 2 cabins
- AhTel Creek drainage - 5 cabins
- Indian Creek drainage - 7 cabins
- East Fork Chistochina drainage - 8 cabins
- Chistochina River drainage - 10 cabins
- Sinona Creek and Lake drainage - 8 cabins
- Gakona River - Excelsior Creek drainage - 10 cabins

Most of these cabins are in areas to which the department has assigned the lowest priority of fire protection. There may be no response to wildfires in these areas.

Trapping Cabins Trapping cabins will be allowed consistent with existing regulations except within recommended legislative designations at Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek, Thompson Pass, and in the Nelchina-Tazlina recreation river corridor.

Public Use Cabins Public use cabins are built or acquired by the state and available for public use. Public use cabins may be built or acquired, contingent on funding, at these locations:

- North end of Tonsina Lake (at least 1/2 mile from lake outlet)
- Tazlina Lake
- Kaina Lake and upper Kaina Valley
- Upper Klutina Valley

Forestry

Most large blocks of forest lands will be retained in state ownership with forestry designated as a primary use. The major uses of these lands probably will be for personal use and small sales. Forestry, dispersed recreation, and wildlife habitat are generally compatible uses. Timber harvest activities in the trumpeter swan habitats (west of St. Anne Lake) will be subject to seasonal restrictions. In all other areas, forestry (including cutting houselogs, firewood, and commercial timber sales) is generally allowed.

Sand and Gravel

Existing gravel pits will be retained in state ownership. Most areas identified as having high or very high potential for additional sand and gravel resources will be retained in public ownership and available for use.

Recreation

Most high value recreation lands will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use including public recreation. State land around Kaina Lake, southern Tazlina Lake, Tonsina Lake, High Lake, St. Anne Lake, and Old Man Lake will be managed to protect wilderness values. No land offerings or surface leasing will occur around these lakes. State land around Paxson Lake, Meiers Lake, Summit Lake, Mankomen Lake, and Carlson Lake will be managed for recreation.

Three areas which will be actively managed for recreation are the Kettlehole Lakes-Mendeltna Creek area, Nelchina-Tazlina recreation rivers and Thompson Pass. The Alaska Legislature should consider special designation of these areas to ensure long-term public ownership and management for recreation. The plan explicitly provides for transportation and utility routes through the Thompson Pass area. Local advisory boards should be established to develop proposals for the legislature. The department will continue to maintain existing recreation sites in the basin and will expand a few sites which are now too small. State-owned land under the Gulkana River will be designated as a state wild and scenic river to complement the National Wild and Scenic River designation managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Transportation

New roads and airstrips are allowed subject to the general guidelines in the plan. The proposed routes of the Copper River Highway could be built across state land; however, the proposed routes cross very little state land.

POLICIES BY RESOURCE

Trails

Uses of most trails in the basin will not be restricted by this plan. Use of off-road vehicles which require a permit will be restricted in trumpeter swan nesting habitat from May until September (most trails in this area are impassable during this season).

Specific trail recommendations are made for these trails:

- Crosswind Lake Trail
- Mud Lake Trail
- Ewan Lake Trail
- Tazlina River Trail
- Valdez to Copper Center Trail around Klutina Lake
- Tonsina Lake Trail
- Squaw Creek Trail to Tonsina Lake
- Gulkana River trail easements between Gulkana and Sourdough
- Swede Lake Trail
- Chistochina River Trails
- Slana River Access
- O'Brien Creek near Chittina

In addition, the trailheads of these important easements should be marked:

- Hudson Lake Trail (off Klutina River Trail)
- Copper River Access Trail, north of Gulkana airport between the Richardson Highway and Copper River
- Klawasi Trail, East of Copper Center
- Klutina River Trail
- Bernard Creek Trail
- Swan Lake Trail

Subsurface Resources

Minerals Mining is a primary use in the Slate Creek and Chisna River mining area which is the only state land with extensive mining activity at present. Most other mining claims and most lands with mineral potential in the basin are found on Native lands or private claims in the Wrangell Mountains. Approximately 3.15 million acres (97 percent) of the state land in the basin remain open to mineral entry. Approximately 110,000 acres (3 percent) of the state land in the basin are closed to mineral entry to protect certain recreation, archaeological, and fish resources. Additional acreage (approximately 36,000 acres or another 1 percent) would be closed for land disposals prior to offering. The streams listed below are closed to new mineral entry, as are the Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna recreation area and corridor through Thompson Pass. The north shore of Tazlina Lake is closed to new mineral entry to protect archaeological resources. All other land remains open to mineral entry.

Streams closed to new mineral entry to protect important salmon spawning and rearing areas, resident fish habitat, recreation, and scenic resources, include:

- Mendeltna Creek and Old Man Lake
- Tolsona Creek
- Kaina Lake and Creek
- St. Anne Creek
- Klutina Lake and River above Manker Creek
- Mahlo River
- Manker Creek
- Tonsina Lake and River above Rainbow Creek
- Greyling Creek
- Bernard Creek
- Long Lake and Long Lake outlet
- Nizina River - Dan Creek to Spruce Point
- Slana River (above Lost Creek)
- AhTel Creek (to 2 1/2 miles above Flat Creek)
- East Fork Chistochina River (below Mankomen Lake)
- unnamed tributary to Gakona River near Alder Lake and Swampy Lake
- Spring Creek
- Gulkana River
- Paxson Lake
- Summit Lake
- Gunn Creek and Gunn Lakes
- Fish Creek and Fish Lakes
- Crosswind Lake

State-owned uplands within 200 feet of mean high water on these streams are closed to new mineral entry. Existing valid mining claims are not affected by these closures. There are very few active or patented claims on these streams.

Oil and Gas All state land is available for oil and gas exploration and leasing except state-owned shorelands under the Gulkana River. The Gulkana River is a National Wild and Scenic River, and adjacent federal lands are withdrawn from leasing. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to oil and gas activities in the trumpeter swan habitat areas.

Other Leasable Minerals (coal, sedimentary uranium, potassium, sodium, oil shale, and geothermal). Any leases will be dealt with case by case consistent with the intent of the appropriate management unit.

Fish and Wildlife

Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas These areas will be managed to protect nesting habitat and to minimize disturbance to swans. Land sales and private remote cabins are not allowed in these areas.

General guidelines that apply to permits and leases in these areas are summarized below:

- Surface leasing (other than for oil and gas activities) is prohibited unless ADF&G determines that the proposed use will be compatible with the protection of trumpeter swans and swan habitat, or DNR determines it is not feasible and prudent to prohibit the activity.
- Oil and gas and mineral exploration activities are allowed, and surface leasing that support oil and gas activities may be allowed; access and certain other activities that would disturb swans will be restricted from May 1 to August 31.
- Overland access regulated by permit and other activities that require permits will be prohibited from May 1 to August 31 unless ADF&G determines the activity is compatible with the protection of trumpeter swans and swan habitat or DNR determines it is not feasible and prudent to prohibit these activities. Most overland access is difficult or impossible during this period because of the amount of standing water.
- If an activity is permitted to occur, DNR will coordinate with ADF&G to determine which of the following restrictions apply (see Chapter 2 of Final CRBAP for details of this guideline).

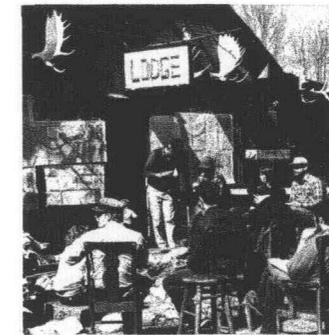
Activities that may damage swan nesting habitat which require permits should be restricted or prohibited from May 1 through August 31 within at least 1/4 mile of current or potential swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes, or lakes. Activities requiring permits that may cause visual or noise disturbance should be restricted or prohibited from May 1 through August 31 within at least 1/4 mile of occupied swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes, or lakes. This includes actions that may not in themselves be damaging or disturbing to swans, but which are dependent on activities that may be damaging or disturbing (for example, air access, off-road vehicles, or use of motorboats). Particular activities may be restricted or prohibited in a wider area if their potential level of damage or disturbance warrants doing so.

Note: Many activities that now occur in this area do not require permits and are not regulated by this guideline. Aircraft and floatplane landings, hunting, and fishing in traditionally used areas are not affected by this guideline.

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating the trumpeter swan habitat areas as a critical habitat area to retain the land in public ownership and provide greater long-term protection to the trumpeter swans. Existing DNR authorities can adequately protect trumpeter swan habitat in the near-term.

Fish Fish and wildlife habitat and harvest are identified as the primary use of most anadromous streams and streams and lakes with important resident fish populations. In order to protect important salmon spawning and rearing areas and important resident fish populations, certain streams and lakes will be closed to new mineral entry. These are identified under Minerals.

Wildlife The plan recognizes that state land in the basin provides habitat for moose, caribou, bear, furbearers, and other animals and that these resources are used by people from throughout Alaska and outside Alaska. Wildlife habitat is designated a primary use on all lands important for wildlife habitat or used for hunting or wildlife viewing except in areas identified for land offerings or areas designated resource management - high value.



SELECTIONS AND RELINQUISHMENTS

The state can choose more land for state ownership from vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved federal lands. In the basin, most land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is eligible for state selection. The state, however, has a limit on the total number of acres it can select. Furthermore, the state should relinquish previously selected areas which do not have high resource values, would be difficult to manage, or would be better managed by the federal government.

The state will select 218,700 acres of land in these areas:

- Mount Billy Mitchell area and Tsina River valley - for the Thompson Pass recreation area
- Tonsina Plateau - for future settlement
- Richardson Highway Corridor, Tonsina to Tsina River - for settlement and transportation corridor
- Paxson to Meiers Lake - for settlement and transportation corridor
- Between Meiers Lake and Sourdough - for recreation and transportation corridor
- Denali Highway - for recreation and wildlife habitat
- Edgerton Highway, Lower Tonsina River - for settlement, forestry, recreation and habitat values.

The state would relinquish about 151,000 acres of land in these areas:

- Northwest of Gulkana River - more efficiently managed by BLM
- Between Gulkana River and Richardson Highway - low resource values
- Near Fish Lake - to allow BLM to manage trumpeter swan habitat

Some of these relinquishments are contingent on BLM agreeing to convey lands in the utility corridor to the state. These lands are currently withdrawn from state selection.

The state may relinquish additional selections south of Ewan Lake and east of Crosswind Lake if land adjacent to this area eventually falls under BLM management.

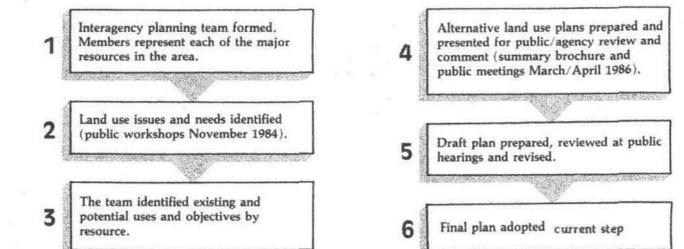
RECOMMENDED LEGISLATIVE DESIGNATIONS

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating certain state land for long-term retention in public ownership. Four areas would be managed for recreation. Areas proposed for recreation designations are:

- Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek Area
- Thompson Pass Area
- Nelchina and Tazlina Rivers and corridor
- Gulkana River (state-owned submerged lands and water column)

The high-value trumpeter swan nesting and staging areas should be considered by the legislature for designation as a critical habitat area.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

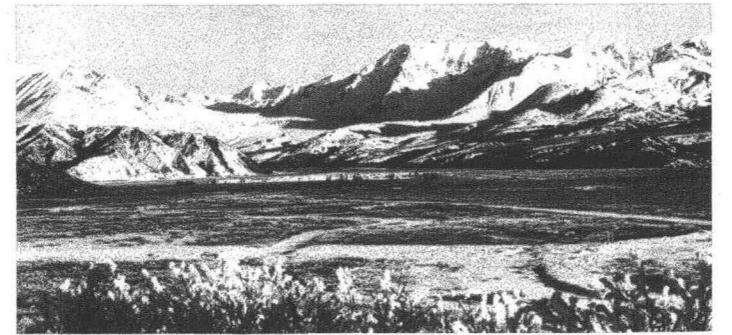


SUMMARY OF PROCESS FOR MODIFYING THE PLAN

The Copper River Basin Area Plan must be a flexible tool to the extent that it can be updated as economic and social conditions change.

The plan will be reviewed every five years to determine if revisions are required.

The plan may be amended upon approval by the Commissioner of DNR, with public review, and following consultation with appropriate agencies. A minor change to the plan, such as clarifying intent or correcting an inconsistency, does not require public review. Special exceptions to the plan are also possible in cases where plan compliance is impossible or impractical. A request for a special exception must follow certain review procedures.



COPPER RIVER BASIN AREA PLAN - for State Lands

Land Use Designations

PRIMARY SURFACE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

MULTIPLE USE LAND - OPEN TO MINERAL ENTRY

Lands to be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use.

-  Public Recreation
-  Wildlife Habitat
-  Wildlife Habitat/Public Recreation
-  Wildlife Hab./Public Rec./Forestry
-  Mining / Wildlife Habitat
-  Resource Management
-  Heritage Resource / Wildlife Hab./Public Rec.
-  Transportation Corridor

LAND OFFERING AREAS

Areas where the state will offer land for private ownership. In most areas, only part of the areas shown will be transferred to private ownership.

These areas will be closed to mineral entry prior to offering.

-  Proposed Settlement Offerings
-  Proposed Agricultural or Mixed Offerings
-  Settlement/ Forestry or Habitat
-  Past State Land Offerings

AREAS TO BE CLOSED TO MINERAL ENTRY

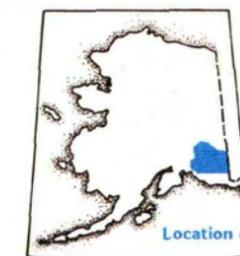
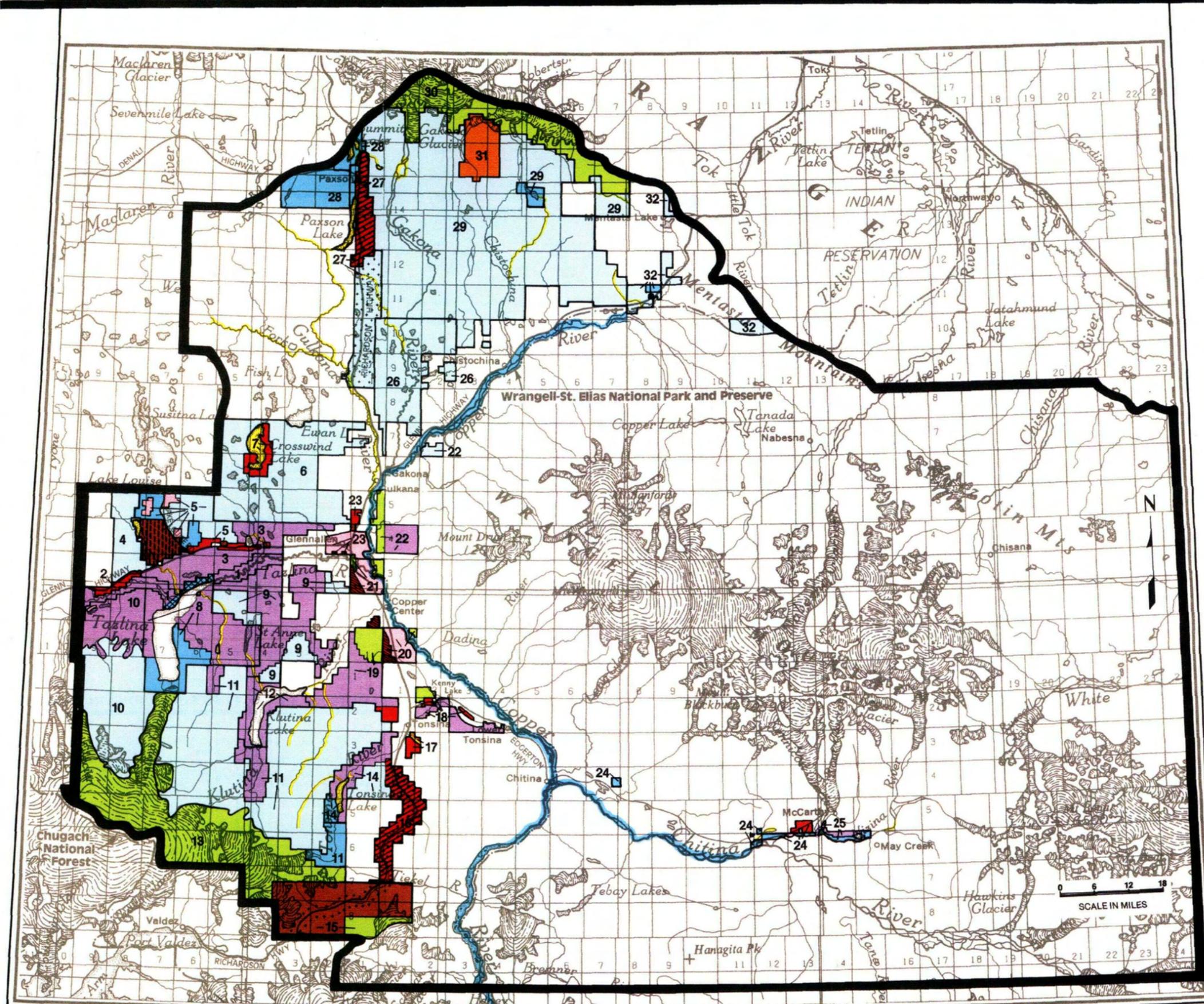
All land is open to mineral entry unless otherwise specified.

-  Streams & lakes closed to new mineral entry
-  Area closed to new mineral entry

 Management Units

This map shows generalized land use designations. Only the primary surface designations are shown. The primary uses are not the only uses that will be permitted; the large majority of publicly retained lands are multiple use areas where a variety of other uses, including mining, are allowed. See the Draft Plan for land management guidelines that apply to the whole planning area and a complete statement of management intent for each location.

The map also includes designations for land which is selected by both the state and native corporations. These land use designations only apply if the land is conveyed to the state. The map also does not show small privately owned parcels of land. The plan does not apply to private lands.



Location of study area

December 1986

